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Inter-Arab Affairs

Mubarak Says Talks in Baghdad, Kuwait 'Successful'

NC2407151490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described his visit to Baghdad and Kuwait and his talks there as successful.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Kuwait, President Mubarak expressed the hope that his tour will fulfill the aspirations attached to it.

Visits Saudi Arabia, Meets Fahd

NC2407183290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak arrived in Jeddah this evening after visiting Iraq and Kuwait in a bid to contain the current crisis between Iraq and both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, clear the Arab atmosphere, and unite the Arab ranks.

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, was at Jeddah Airport to receive President Mubarak. Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, was also present to receive him, as were a number of Saudi princes and ministers.

President Mubarak and King Fahd held a meeting in the airport's VIP lounge, where they exchanged views on current Arab developments and on ways of clearing the Arab atmosphere and bolstering Arab solidarity.

President Mubarak is expected to spend a few hours in Jeddah before returning to Cairo later tonight.

Al-Baz Comments on Mubarak's Kuwait, Iraq Visits

NC2407153690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stressed that the aim of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Kuwait and Iraq today is to clear the way for containing the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis, particularly in view of the fact that the two countries are bound by fraternal ties.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Kuwait, Dr. al-Baz said that the two countries can overcome the transient crisis because their interests are identical. He asserted that there could be no real conflict of interest between the two fraternal countries and peoples.

Dr. al-Baz added that at the meeting of members of the Egyptian delegation under Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Kuwaiti delegation under Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, ways of containing the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis were discussed.

Views 'Crisis,' PLO Stand

NC2407131590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, stressed that Egypt will not allow the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis to cause the collapse of Arab solidarity efforts, which have started to achieve notable success. He said that the appearance of problems from time to time between Arab countries does not mean that there are fundamental conflicts between them.

In an interview with Kuwait's AL-WATAN published today, Dr. al-Baz called on the irresponsible elements in the PLO to stop shooting their arrows at Egypt. He stressed that Egypt is not imposing anything on the PLO but intervenes within the limits it believes are in the Palestinian interest as expressed by the PLO. He noted that the Egyptian role in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was merely that of mediation to set up this dialogue, which was a Palestinian demand that the PLO persistently sought.

Regarding Egypt's not participating in the Arab League's ministerial council meetings, Dr. al-Baz told AL-WATAN that Egypt could not attend them because it was involved in efforts with the United States following the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO, because it was busy preparing for the conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers that will be held in Cairo later this month, and because of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's recent visit to Cairo.

Dr. al-Baz said that the peace efforts in the Middle East have reached a dead end as a result of Israeli intransigence. He added that if no progress is made, Egypt and the other parties concerned with the peace process will have to assess their stands in order to seek other available alternatives.

He stressed that the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories continues to manifest itself in full by making the Israelis and world public opinion feel that the Palestinian people reject occupation.

Regarding the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories, Dr. al-Baz said: We can, together with the Soviet Union and Israel, set out one aim, which is to ban the settlement of any newcomer from the Soviet Union or anywhere else in the occupied territories, as this would constitute a major obstacle to any settlement in the future.

EC, Arab Committees Meet on Peace Process

LD2407165790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Within the framework of regular contacts between EC and Arab countries aimed at giving a boost to the Middle East peace process, a delegation of the Arab troika ministerial committee met this afternoon in Tunis with the European troika committee. It is expected that the meeting will discuss mainly the latest developments concerning Palestine and Middle East problems. The European delegation wishes to learn about the Arab position regarding these issues, specially after the Baghdad summit, to help prepare for a European action aimed at activating the peace process.

The European delegation will also meet with president of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, to brief him on the Israeli stand vis-a-vis the Palestine issue.

The European committee's visit to Tunisia comes after its visit to Israel, during which differences of opinion emerged, particularly regarding the representational nature of the PLO and its role in the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

Correction to Mubarak Efforts on Gulf Dispute

NC2407104490

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Mubarak on Efforts To Contain Gulf Dispute," published in the 24 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page three.

Column two, paragraph four, only sentence should read: ...to the dispute. [new paragraph]

The president said that he received a private message from His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz just before leaving for Baghdad. The message was delivered by a special envoy. President Mubarak received... (supplying missing words)

Palestinian Affairs

Hani Al-Hasan Praises Relations With Egypt

JN2507074090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
24 Jul 90 pp 1, 22

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—In a cable of congratulations to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the 23 July Revolution anniversary, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat stressed the close historic relations between the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples.

For his part, Hani al-Hasan, the Palestinian president's political adviser, praised Egypt's positions on the Palestine question, and said Egypt does not make any proposal on the Palestine question without previous PLO consent. In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA' in Tunis, al-Hasan said the PLO would not be drawn into a trap set by some parties to impair the PLO's relations with Egypt.

Al-Hasan said relations between the fraternal Palestinian and Egyptian peoples and between President 'Arafat and President Mubarak are established on ethical bases, expressing hope that the recent media campaign by the Egyptian press against the PLO leadership would be the last.

'Arafat's adviser explained that states having relations with the PLO should not be upset by diversified opinions within the PLO, recalling an agreement between the PLO and other states that they should not take into account the views of any Palestinian side except the PLO or its official spokesman, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in person, or a close official authorized by him, pointing out that the opposite opinion does not represent a majority.

Al-Hasan said political relations between the PLO and Egypt do not need any clarification, stressing that the Palestinians have proved they cannot be devoured or pressured. He added that Egypt did not put any pressure on the PLO over its dialogue with the United States or any other issue. He admitted that differences occur from time to time within the framework of mutual cooperation, even though some people view this as pressure, as he put it. He said official PLO documents indicate this fact.

The Palestinian official said the Palestinian leadership deeply admires and appreciates President Mubarak, not only as president of Egypt, but also as a commander of the historic crossing of the Suez Canal, which led to the legendary victory. He added that Palestine and Egypt complement each other historically and geographically, that Egypt has offered many military sacrifices for its people and the Palestinian people, and that it is currently exerting every effort and using its international weight to help the Palestinian people regain their land and overcome their ordeal.

Al-Hasan said the sensitivity of the Palestine question in the Arab arena is because it is a fateful cause and he urged the Arabs to further support rather than pressure the PLO. He then disclosed that there was coordination between 'Arafat and Mubarak on the recent visit to Washington by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He said the truth is that Egypt does not make any proposal without previously ensuring the PLO's consent. He said Egypt may accept or reject an idea but obtains the PLO's approval when it discusses that idea with a third party.

Regarding the meeting between the Egyptian and Palestinian presidents in the Yemeni city of Ta'izz, he said the two leaders reviewed the results of 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to Washington and agreed to hold a summit meeting in Cairo to develop certain ideas and study the possibility of a move in light of the current stalemate and the U.S. intransigence. However, the surprise media campaign led to postponing this meeting.

Asked about the existence of Egyptian-Palestinian contacts, he said there are such contacts through the two countries' ambassadors, adding that he believed the crisis would soon end.

Egyptian Journalists Denounced

JN2307194590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, on the great anniversary of the migration of the Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to al-Madinah, the Muslim Arab conscience should raise its voice to confront those who are given to the black game of encroaching on the sacred Palestinian dream, and those who have nothing on their minds but blowing poisonous winds to destroy the rays of hope and to encourage the hawks of the Zionist grudge to kill the young doves. We say this because a number of Egyptian journalists and newspaper columnists have, regrettably, become echoes of the voice of the Zionist enemy and made their pens daggers in the hands of Zionists to stab the PLO's back and cut off the fingers of the Palestinian children—not because they have committed any mistake, but because they turn to God and throw a stone at the attacking enemy.

Lest we drown in our woes and pain, we would like to say that the whole matter can be summed up by the fact that these journalists—who by now are known to everyone—are exploiting occasions, fabricating circumstances, and creating lies to open the door of feverish attacks, unjust accusations, vile provocations, and premeditated grudges against the PLO, its struggling people, its blessed intifadah, and the sacred Palestinian dream, which is deeply rooted in the heart of every Arab and every Muslim, despite all difficulties.

What is striking is that the same parties launch their feverish attack whenever the PLO succeeds in penetrating the walls of the suffocating siege and opening a window of renewal for our people and for the Arab struggle in general. Only then do they say: The PLO has gone too far and has made too many concessions. In a surprising turnaround, when the PLO entrenches its principles in confronting Zionist terrorism and U.S. blackmail and pressure, which are being exercised publicly in favor of Israel, these people fiercely attack the PLO on the pretext that it has become too intransigent, too persistent, and has adopted intolerably radical positions.

God be praised! With what instrument do they measure? What criteria do they use? How can they simultaneously attack the PLO for what it does and what it does not do? How can we understand these people's behavior, articles, and attacks, apart from the enemy's covert and overt desires? These people, no matter how much they claim astuteness and eloquence for themselves, are only advocates of the Zionist age, the black age that is collapsing before the stones of the Palestinian children and vanishing before the lights that shine here and there in the our Arab nation's contemporary life. It is a difficult option, but we will face our destiny.

To prevent those who raise their voices in the interest of the enemy from taking more time and effort from us in this discussion, we would like to emphasize that we will not bow to the U.S. pressure, even if the unfaithful hate this. We will not bow to the U.S. pressure, even if these people continue their abuses and lies day and night. We know that steadfastness in the face of U.S. pressure is not an easy option and not an ordinary decision. Rome alone has power, as they say.

We will always defend the sanctity, justice, effectiveness, and achievements of our Palestinian dream, because defending the Palestinian dream means defending our Arab nation's right to exist. Late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir said that the Palestinian resistance led by the PLO was the noblest phenomenon in Arab history, and that its purpose in life was to continue. Yes, it exists to continue, and it is facing its destiny with courage. In the final analysis, it will achieve victory. The PLO has overcome many perils, dangers, sieges, and bloody crises with unmatched success, with legendary heroism, and with blood that has not ceased to flow at any moment.

Why all this? It is aimed at gathering the scattered parts of our people and restoring the purity of the Palestinian people's voice—despite the noise created by the liars—in order to enable the torch of the cause and spark of struggle and hope to continue to shine. You who harbor grudges and hatred—spare your efforts and have mercy on the Palestinian dream.

'Arafat, Soviet Officials Discuss Immigration

JN2007183690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received the night before last [18 July] the Soviet parliamentary delegation headed by comrade Valentin Afanasyevich Tetenov, USSR Supreme Soviet member and chairman of the Transport, Communications, and Information Technology Commission.

During the meeting, they reviewed current political developments in the international, Arab, and Palestinian spheres in the wake of the increasing Zionist oppression of our heroic people's intifadah and the exerted political efforts to push the peace march in the region forward based on the Palestinian peace initiative.

Discussion during the meeting also focused on Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the dangers resulting from settling them inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

The meeting was attended by brother Khalid al-Hasan, head of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Palestine National Council [PNC], and several PNC members. Members of the accompanying Soviet parliamentary delegation also attended.

PFLP Criticizes USSR

JN2407085190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] Amman—The Soviet Union Sunday [22 July] evening came under vehement attack by a member of a leading Palestinian guerrilla group for allowing the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine to continue.

"Doesn't Moscow realise that its detente with Washington which brought about an agreement on the Jewish immigration is bound to create new conflicts in the Arab region," asked Muhammad al-Maslami, member of the political bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and member of the National Committee for the Support of the Intifada in a lecture delivered at the Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman.

In his lecture, entitled "Assessment of Palestinian-Soviet Relations," al-Maslami said that the Arabs were grateful to the Soviet Union for supplying them with modern weapons to defend themselves against Israel's aggression and for its positive mediation among the various Palestinian groups in 1985.

But, he said, "positive developments in Arab-Soviet relations in the past can by no means turn our eyes off the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration which is bound to have detrimental effects on the Palestinian intifada and the Arab World at large."

"Why does the Soviet Union open the door wide for this immigration to our homeland, why does it host Zionist conferences and why has it stopped advocating the idea of an international conference?" asked al-Maslami with bitterness.

He said that the Soviet Union was dispatching touristic, cultural and artistic delegations to Israel who return with praise of what they call a "democratic Israel" and an "advanced Jewish state" which continues to slaughter Arab men, women and children, while similar delegations from the West return only to condemn Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people and its human rights violations.

Intifada is bound to continue and the Palestinian people can never surrender or give up the struggle for freedom, undaunted by the seemingly unsurmountable difficulties and obstacles," al-Maslami said.

Al-Maslami said that 1,163 Palestinian were killed in the ongoing intifada, 88,000 had been arrested and 2,009 homes had been demolished.

"The Israelis uprooted 188,000 fruit trees from Arab lands and stole Arab property estimated at $377 billion since 1967, al-Maslami added.

He said at least 266 Israeli soldiers were killed since the outbreak of the intifada in December 1987 and 2,063 others have been injured.

'Arafat Congratulates Israeli Communist Leaders

JN2207174890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has congratulated (?Me'ir Wilner) and Tawfiq Tubi on the occasion of their election to the positions of leader and secretary general of the communist party, Rakah. In a congratulatory cable, brother Abu-'Ammar expressed confidence in the important role played by Rakah to bring about a just peace in the Middle East—a peace that will restore the Palestinian peoples' full national, inalienable rights to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state.

PLO Fighters Wounded in Israeli Jarju' Shelling

JN2307200690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1828 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Military communique issued by the PLO date, place not specified]

[Text] While our forces continue their mission to cease the fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah—a mission they have assumed since the fighting broke out—and after succeeding in ending a strong clash between the two sides in Jarju' area and its environs today, the Zionist enemy continued its attacks against our forces, which are acting as a disengagement force. At 1000 today, 22 July 90 [as heard], the enemy shelled our forces' positions using the long-range 155-mm guns. Intensive shelling continued until 1115 in an Israeli attempt to foil our forces' mission of ending the fighting between the warring brothers and directing guns at the Zionist enemy. Five of our fighters were slightly wounded in the shelling. It is a revolution until victory.

Egypt

President Mubarak Receives Tariq 'Aziz

JN2207105190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (INA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received this afternoon Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's envoy, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Nabil Najm, Iraqi ambassador in Cairo.

After meeting with President Mubarak today, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz told reporters that he had conveyed an oral message to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from President Saddam Husayn dealing with the brotherly relations between the two countries and the latest developments, especially the contents of the memorandum Iraq sent to the Arab League secretary general several days ago.

Talks With Saddam; Travels to Kuwait

NC2407120190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (MENA)—MENA learned that Presidents Husni Mubarak and Saddam Husayn held a private round of talks during which they discussed Iraq's crisis with Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

President Husayn hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of President Mubarak and the accompanying delegation, which was attended by senior Iraqi officials prior to Mubarak's departure from Baghdad to Kuwait.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1151 GMT on 24 July adds in a Kuwait-datelined item that "President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Kuwait from Baghdad at 1430 today on a visit that will last several hours.

["Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah headed the reception committee at the airport."]

Returns to Cairo

NC2407205890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned home tonight from Jeddah after a lightning one-day tour which took him to Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Official Comments on Results of Mubarak Tour

NC2507114190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1014 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has announced that in the next few days President Husni Mubarak will resume the efforts he began with the Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders yesterday during his tour of the two countries, which also took him to Jeddah before he returned to Cairo shortly before midnight last night.

Al-Baz said that President Mubarak's good offices met with a response from the Iraqi and Kuwaiti leaders. Mubarak also sensed a desire to contain the situation and to pave the way for settling the disputed points through peaceful means without tension. In statements to journalists today on the president's visit yesterday to Baghdad, Kuwait, and Jeddah, al-Baz said that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia welcomed President Mubarak's efforts, describing them as a blessed move on President Mubarak's part. The king also expressed his readiness to coordinate joint efforts by the Egyptian and Saudi leaders to contain the situation. Al-Baz added that agreement was reached on a specific course of action to settle the disputed issues in order to arrive at a certain mechanism to accomplish this goal.

Al-Baz asserted that some elements of progress crystallized during President Mubarak's important and unexpected tour yesterday. He noted that the initial Egyptian efforts were designed to explore the positions of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides. He pointed out that President Mubarak has in mind several ways to calm the situation between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Baz said Egypt hopes that agreement will be reached on holding a meeting between the parties concerned, adding that the Egyptian side's primary mission in this respect is to create an atmosphere for reaching an understanding on the means to achieve an accord to end the dispute.

Al-Baz concluded by emphasizing that such disputes will not affect the preparations for the forthcoming Arab summit scheduled to be held in Cairo in November.

Papers on Tour, Arab Disputes

NC2507100390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Under front-page banner headlines, Egyptian newspapers today give prominence to the news of President Husni Mubarak's lightning visit to Baghdad, Kuwait, and Jeddah as part of his efforts to contain the crisis in Iraq's relations with Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, a crisis which threatens Arab solidarity.

The three [as received] papers note that this visit falls within the framework of Egypt's intensive efforts to use its good offices to bring views closer together and maintain the unity of the Arab fold.

The editorials in both AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-AKHBAR deal with the same subject. Under the headline "A Tour of Peace," AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that the Arab and Islamic public hopes that President Husni Mubarak's efforts will succeed in bringing about a quick and calm solution to this crisis before the Islamic foreign ministers convene in Cairo at the end of the month.

The paper points out that the president's tour seeks to explore possible avenues to resolve this dispute within the Arab family.

The paper refers to the president's assertion that Iraq and Kuwait will resolve this crisis quickly and calmly, especially at a time when the enemies are lying in wait for the Arab nation and seeking to distract it from its principal cause.

Meanwhile, under the heading "The Only Means To Preserve Trust," AL-AKHBAR emphasizes the importance of President Husni Mubarak's call on the Arab nation's leaders to maintain genuine and sound Arab solidarity as the main weapon that will enable the Arabs to confront all the challenges and dangers threatening them, especially in the current stage.

The paper remarks that Mubarak calls for the Arab brothers to set aside any differences among their countries, no matter how sharp or important, and to seek to settle these differences through an objective dialogue and friendly means aims to secure unity, cooperation, and joint action, as this is the ideal way for brothers to deal with one another. It emphasizes that any dispute or conflict between two Arab states benefits no one but the enemies of the Arab nation.

The paper says the failure to settle any dispute among the Arab countries by peaceful means, as stipulated by the Arab League Charter and agreements on solidarity and unified action, will be a stab in the heart of all these covenants and treaties. Such a failure, it adds, will reveal that these are nothing more than pieces of paper and empty slogans which any dispute, no matter how slight, will scatter in the wind.

In conclusion, the paper urges the Arab leaders to follow in the footsteps of the two international superpowers in settling their disputes and differences through dialogue and peaceful means. At one time, the paper notes, these disputes threatened to destroy the whole world. The paper asks: How can the Arabs, who are united by the same religion, language, and history, fail when the two former worst enemies have succeeded?

Chief Editor Criticizes Tariq 'Aziz, 'Arafat

JN2407073690 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 21 Jul 90 pp 1, 8

[Article by Chief Editor Ibrahim Sa'dah: "Who Is Slandering Whom?"]

[Text] I would have preferred that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz had not fallen into the trap intentionally dug for him by the president of the State of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat. I would also like my colleague Tariq 'Aziz not to forget that he was a journalist before entering politics and diplomacy and rising to the position he now occupies. He knows that a journalist should not err in truth or historical fact in an article or speech. If he does, the fellow journalist loses the credibility of everything he has written and said. This, unfortunately, is the trap into which my old colleague Tariq 'Aziz has fallen at the instigation of Yasir 'Arafat!

For Yasir 'Arafat to attack Egypt is not new; for the president of the State of Palestine to cast doubt on the pan-Arabism of Egyptian policy is no surprise; and for the sole spokesman of the Palestinian people to defame Egypt's past and present leaders, this is an old habit in which he persists and which he enjoys!

For all these and other reasons, we were not shocked by what Yasir 'Arafat said during the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis. The man was honest with himself, true to his convictions, and frank about his feelings against Egypt and the Egyptians.

He was honest with himself when he mocked Egypt's economic suffering by revealing his meager morsel of information that American aid had reached the point where Egypt was receiving wheat to feed its people week by week!

By God! Yasir 'Arafat is mocking our people by saying they cannot guarantee their daily bread for more than one week! The president of the State of Palestine is reproaching us by saying we are getting aid from the United States and in return we are bowing to its hostile policy against the Arabs and Palestinians!

I do not know who among us went to Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and told him about the famine suffered by the Egyptians whenever the weekly wheat shipment is delayed. Nor do I know when the president of the State of Palestine went to our ports in Alexandria, Suez, and Port Said to see the weekly wheat shipments being unloaded. At any rate, we thank billionaire Yasir 'Arafat for being so concerned about our empty stomachs and economic suffering that he devoted part of his historic speech to the Arab foreign ministers to reveal with figures the breadcrumbs the United States offers to us week by week!

It is our duty to thank the man who enjoys a billionaire's life and yet does not forget the famine of 50 million Egyptian Arabs—who are hosting tens of thousands of brother Palestinians; who are determined to share our suffering, famine, and deprivation and also the meager loaf made from wheat we are soliciting from the United States, as he says!

It is the farce of a head of state whose character has perplexed us and whose words and behavior have perplexed us even more. He is a man who has lived and spent his youth in our country. He graduated from one of our universities. On many occasions, he expressed pride in being a Palestinian national with an Egyptian identity. In spite of this, this man has missed no opportunity to attack this identity in a bid to tear it apart and stab it in the back through injustice and slander. The details of all of these attempts are well-known by all Arabs from the Ocean to the Gulf. They are all exposed, public, and documented in voice, pictures, and print. I do not want to talk about them again here because to do so would be nauseating, boring, and disgusting.

Yasir 'Arafat stabbed at Egypt once again a few days ago when he addressed the Arab foreign ministers. He seems to have become tired of making insinuations criticizing our present leadership and current Egyptian policy. So he attempted to prove that Egypt's betrayal of the Palestine question is not new. Therefore, he found none other than Mustafa al-Nahhas, the late leader of the nation, to attack and defame.

The sole representative of the Palestinian people literally said: "I recall the speech delivered by al-Nahhas Pasha, Egyptian prime minister in 1939, when he received a Palestinian delegation in London and addressed the delegation members saying: You are angering the Jews because of the Wailing Wall. Give them the wall and let us do away with this problem." 'Arafat added: The Wailing Wall has extended to include "Greater Israel."

These words seek only to tarnish the image of Egyptian leaders throughout our contemporary history. The man who said this is well aware that he is telling lies. In Spite of this, he told these lies to the Arab foreign ministers so they could be broadcast the same day and published in Arab newspapers the next.

Fortunately, Kamil al-Banna, secretary of the late Mustafa al-Nahhas, is still alive. He hastened to react to this slander in the newspaper AL-AKHBAR saying: "The Egyptian prime minister in 1939 was Muhammad Mahmud Pasha and not Mustafa al-Nahhas as 'Arafat claimed. Besides, 'Ali Mahir and not Mustafa al-Nahhas was the head of the Egyptian delegation at the London conference on Palestine as 'Arafat claimed. At the time, al-Nahhas Pasha was the leader of the opposition in Egypt. He uttered none of the words made up by Abu-'Ammar in a bid to tarnish the image of one of Egypt's eternal symbols. "

Certainly, Abu-'Ammar will back down on this slander—if he has not already done so—and swear that he did not say what he said, or that, at least, U.S. imperialism and world Zionism distorted his words with a view to harming Palestinian-Egyptian ties.

This has been 'Arafat's habit whenever he encroaches on our leadership, country, and people. He slanders us publicly and hastens to apologize in private. This happened with President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir when he was alive. It also happened with President Anwar al-Sadat, both when he was alive and after his death. The same thing has happened with President Husni Mubarak more than once, when 'Arafat and his aides accused our leadership of bringing pressure to bear on the PLO to urge it to resume the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and when they said that Egypt's role is no longer that of mediator but rather that of a partner of the United States in pressuring the PLO.

Yasir 'Arafat is the first to know that these lies are sheer fabrications. He is also the first to know that he and his organization persistently asked President Husni Mubarak to mediate with the U.S. Administration in the hope of making it rescind its decision to sever contacts with the PLO. Had it not been for this urging, the Egyptian leadership would not have mediated and placed all of its weight behind efforts to resume the dialogue. This is not the first time, and it will not be the last, for President Husni Mubarak to say that Egypt takes no step regarding the Palestine question without consultations and prior agreement with the PLO.

What is strange is that, whenever an agreement is reached between us and the Palestinian brothers according to which the Egyptian leaders contact the outside world to activate the peace process in our region, the Palestinian side, a few days later, quickly disavows the agreement, condemns the Egyptian moves, and tries to convince the whole world that Egypt was pressuring the Palestinians into accepting what was unacceptable to them.

I do not know the sort of pressure 'Arafat and his aides claim Egypt is exerting on them. Nor do I know what Egypt stands to gain from seeking a solution that is unacceptable to the owners of the cause themselves. Nor do I envisage success for any Arab or foreign activity that is not approved first by the Palestinian people.

All this is known by Yasir 'Arafat and all the hawks and doves around him. But their leader always ignores this fact and insists on exercising his strange habit of slandering the Egyptian leadership and Egyptian policy whenever the opportunity arises. The latest was his slander about Mustafa al-Nahhas, with the aim of convincing his audience that the Egyptian "betrayal" of the Palestinian cause dates back to the time preceding the loss of the state of Palestine and the establishment of the State of Israel in its place.

This makes both heart and mind bleed. It is practice we have come to expect from the Palestinian brothers and we are no longer surprised or shocked by it. The only surprise and great shock came from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz when he spoke before the Arab foreign ministers after Yasir 'Arafat had completed his historic falsehoods. We were surprised to hear the Iraqi foreign minister support 'Arafat's hints and allusions as though they had agreed upon them beforehand. Tariq 'Aziz said: "Some Arab countries asked the PLO to say what it said at the start of the dialogue with the United States and have pushed it into this dialogue. Does this not place a certain responsibility on them today, or would they leave the PLO alone?!"

It is obvious that Egypt was the target of this hint and allusion. Hence we were greatly shocked by what was said by the Iraqi foreign minister, who knows how much attention the Egyptian political leadership gives to the

Palestine question almost daily and how it tries to reunite the Arabs for the sake of confronting all the challenges facing the Arab nation today and tomorrow.

The Iraqi foreign minister is not far from Cairo; his visits to it continue. His closeness to the continuous contacts between Presidents Mubarak and Saddam Husayn makes him a good judge of Egyptian policy and the extent of its concern for resolving all Arab problems, primarily the Palestine question. Tariq 'Aziz, in his capacity as a foreign minister of one of the ACC [Arab Cooperation Council] states, knows a great deal about the secrets of the intensive contacts President Husni Mubarak held and is holding with all concerned parties for the sake of activating the peace process as previously agreed with the first spokesman of the Palestinian people.

The question to which I would like to hear a reply from Tariq 'Aziz is: How can you know so much, yet doubt all these facts and go along with the Palestinian brothers' slanders, and also cast your own characteristic doubts, when I am certain that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has not agreed and will not agree with you?

I wish you had stopped at casting doubt on the Egyptian leadership's concern for the Palestine question, but you went beyond that. We were surprised—O, old press colleague—to see you support 'Arafat in his slanders and lies with which he tries to distort the memory of Mustafa al-Nahhas, Egypt's former leader. You even used words and threats that were inconceivable and unexpected from you. You said, verbatim: "The persons who said in the past give the Wailing Wall to the Jews—meaning Mustafa al-Nahhas whom 'Arafat mentioned by name—were toppled in the fifties, and this is the destiny of officials who do not shoulder their responsibilities today!"

Thus, the foreign minister of an Arab Cooperation Council member state so easily agrees with Yasir 'Arafat to defame a nationalist symbol of a fraternal state that is also an ACC member. Not only this, but Tariq 'Aziz also added to this slander an unequivocal threat to those whom he accuses in Egypt of abandoning their responsibilities to the Palestine question.

To refresh the memory of the Iraqi foreign minister, I would like to tell him that the late Mustafa al-Nahhas said none of the words made up by Yasir 'Arafat. Besides, now that the man is in God's abode, we would like to say that he supported all the positions taken by the Palestinian people. He did not say a single word against this fraternal people. Our evidence to substantiate this is that the 23 July revolution did not file a single charge against him accusing him of hostility toward the Palestinians, or even that he ignored their just cause while leader of the opposition in Egypt or when he assumed the Egyptian premiership.

As I have said, the party of Mustafa al-Nahhas was toppled in the fifties. This party, like all other political parties accused of corruption, was banned in the wake of the revolution. However, it is certain that the toppling of Mustafa al-Nahhas and his party's rule was not caused by his alleged remarks about the Wailing Wall, nor by the advice that he allegedly offered to the Palestinian delegation to grant the Jews the Wailing Wall as Yasir 'Arafat claimed. You deliberately took part in this slander.

As for the threats you voiced in your speech to the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis, I think you must regret them now. You know quite well that Egypt's interest in the Palestine question was not forced on its people or on its successive governments. Nobody can force on us something that we find unacceptable. Besides, nobody can direct our policy according to his wishes or whims. Moreover, we do not allow anybody—regardless of the pride we take in his country and its leadership—to voice these blatant and irresponsible threats against us.

I am quite sure that Tariq 'Aziz will hasten to correct the statements conveyed to the Egyptian people from his speech to the Arab foreign ministers. This Arab foreign ministers' session was originally held to discuss the latest development of the Palestine question. The Egyptian people were surprised to see the Palestinian president digress and engage in hints and allusions mocking our nationalist symbols, both living and dead.

Efforts to contain this crisis will not be delayed. We, as Arabs, have become accustomed to this haste to create differences and also to a similar haste in efforts to contain and remove them. This might be one of our advantages, even if logic rejects such a state of affairs and if it is against our peoples' interests. This is our fate. We must accept it as long as we are incapable of changing or reversing it.

What pains the heart is that this crisis has emerged at this particular moment when we are boasting about Arab reconciliation that came after a long estrangement; Arab solidarity, which returned after a long absence; and also a common Arab position, which has occupied the attention of all Arab states from the Ocean to the Gulf.

In conclusion, we have finally put behind us the years of estrangement and accumulating enmities. We have also forgotten simple differences that were complicated and exacerbated by time and the absence of a desire to resolve them. What has actually happened is a miracle when viewed in light of what was going on over the past few years.

Who imagined that Egypt might reconcile itself with Libya? Who expected a return of good ties between Syria and Egypt with such ease and simplicity and without concessions from either of the two sides?

Who had expected relations between Iraq and Egypt to develop to such a level, strengthened by our affection for each other, for our peoples and leaders? Who had expected North and South Yemen to reunite into one country? Who had expected the countries of the Arab East and the Arab Maghreb to unite in councils which have begun by uniting economically, but may soon unite politically? Who had expected the holding of regular summits attended by all Arab leaders to discuss every problem concerning the Arabs, when until recently these summits were few and far between and were not attended by all leaders for one reason or another?

Whoever expected all that to happen at this very time must be lying. At any rate, the impossible has been achieved through the great efforts of our leaders and rulers in response to the sentiments and demands of all their peoples without any exception. However, instead of doubling these efforts to achieve more rapprochement and understanding, we were surprised by the eruption of a crisis between Iraq on the one hand and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates on the other. We were also surprised by a new crisis which the Palestinians have created with Egypt without any cause.

There is a big difference between the two crises. The first would not have taken place had the Arab League Secretariat carried out its duty in containing any dispute between two Arab states such as Iraq's dispute with Kuwait and the UAE. The Arab League secretary general was like a husband; he was the last to know! At least this is how he seemed to us when he stood by like a spectator while the first spark spread into a scorching fire. The dispute between the two fraternal countries is not recent. On the contrary, the secretary general was the first to know about it and he should have been the first to stop it. But the man, it seems, was busy with other things which he considered more important and pressing than his job, time, effort, and duties. Not only that, he has in fact contributed, wittingly or unwittingly, to the eruption of the crisis simply by circulating the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's memo to the Arab foreign ministers, as if this was all that was expected of him!

God bless the soul of the first League Secretary General 'Abd-al- Rahman 'Azzam.

God bless also the soul of the second League Secretary General 'Abd-al-Khaliq Hassunah.

Greetings also to the third League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad.

These three men were up to the level of the enormous responsibility they assumed. Each one of them faced many crises and disputes during their years in office. Still, they devoted their time to them and they mediated between the different sides. They did not rest until they contained those crisis and settled those disputes even before they got to the League Council. A successful official is the one who extinguishes the first spark before it spreads. As for the one who stands by while the fire is spreading, knowing he is safe from it, he is merely an employee, no more no less.

The fire has spread and the crisis between Iraq on the one hand and Kuwait and the UAE on the other is not over. Since the Arab League secretary general has begun his moves late, then it is certain that he will not be able to do anything. The crisis has gone beyond his abilities and risen higher than the level of his contacts. What is needed now is for all the Arab leaders to continue their contacts, consultations, and mediations in order to put out the fire, end the dispute, and reach a settlement acceptable to the parties concerned.

This is the only way to tackle the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. As for the crisis which the Palestinians have created with Egypt, I do not see a solution to it for the simple reason that such fake crises have characterized Palestinian-Egyptian relations for many years.

We have become accustomed to these occasional verbal battles. We would be surprised if the leaders of the Palestinian people were more than a month late in fabricating a new crisis with Egypt.

The Egyptian leadership should not become upset or enraged by these successive crises. This leadership has never sought to create or deepen these crises. It was the Palestinian leadership which won this honor with every new crisis and every new attack. The same leadership always hastened to deny what it said and accused others of trying to sow discord between the Palestinians and Egyptians. The Palestinian leaders would soon travel to Cairo to restore dialogue and reunite ranks.

This is proven by the fact that Yasir 'Arafat said what he said last Wednesday [18 July] and the Arab newspapers vied to publish this slander the next day. Before the end of the third day the Palestinian leadership hastened as usual to issue a statement accusing the news media of misinterpreting brother Abu-'Ammar's speech and denouncing what these news media quoted him as saying. The funniest thing in the statement is that it denied that 'Arafat had attacked the late Egyptian leader Mustafa al-Nahhas. The statement described al-Nahhas as "the leader whose national stands as well as those of the Wafd Party toward the Palestine question are appreciated by the Palestinian leadership and Palestinian people."

Actually, I was not shocked by this statement. On the contrary, I was expecting it. This is not the first time nor will it be the last in which the Palestinians attack us and then hasten within a maximum time of 36 hours to issue a historic statement denying "what was attributed to them by the tendentious news media" and stressing "their respect, appreciation, and love for those whom they have reportedly attacked."

My last innocent question to 'Arafat is: When will we see you in Cairo, Abu-'Ammar, to embrace President Mubarak?

Pakistani Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

NC2307125290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Sahabzada Khan left Cairo this morning after a one-day visit to Egypt.

Before departing, the Pakistani minister stated that during his brief visit he had met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and held consultations with him on the upcoming meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization due to begin in Cairo on 31 July.

Sahabzada was seen off by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Yusuf Shararah and Ambassador Sami Thabit, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Finance Minister Leaves to Visit Saudi Arabia

NC2207212090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz left Cairo for Jeddah this afternoon on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During his visit he will participate in the meetings of the executive directors of the Islamic Bank for Development scheduled to begin tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Petroleum Minister Discusses Oil Prices, Quotas

JN2207084690 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 20 Jul 90 pp 18, 19

[Interview with Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister 'Abd-al-Hadi Qandil by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] [al-Sa'id] Many people have expressed concern over the drop in oil prices. In light of the next OPEC meeting soon to be held, do you expect a formula will be reached guaranteeing abidance by certain specific production quotas which nobody must exceed?

[Qandil] The present conditions in the oil market were created by the producing countries themselves. The producers are to blame for the drop in prices. Therefore, the pact which must be upheld is for everyone to stick to his word. This is more important than any conferences or meetings which may be held.

[Al-Sa'id] To what extent would it be possible to reach a formula establishing quotas on objective bases rather than on oil reserves and stockpiles?

[Qandil] The oil market is open to everyone. Production has never been limited to any specific countries. No group of producing countries can stop any other country from entering the market. Nobody has the right to interfere with or restrict other nations' sources of livelihood. If OPEC is doing this internally among its members, this is its own affair. However, we as a producing country outside OPEC will always stick to our word concerning the quota system. I believe that the latest reports confirm this. Egypt's production has dropped from 930,000 bpd [barrels per day] to 850,000 or 847,000 bpd. As I said, the most important thing for us now is not to gain new markets as much as to maintain Egypt's consumption or reserve to make it last as many years as possible. To us, what is lost in oil production can be offset by increasing gas production. Egypt is a developed country, using gas in most of its industries at present. We consume from 6 to 7 million tons of gas. [no time frame specified]

[Al-Sa'id] But can we reach a formula establishing quotas on objective bases rather than on reserves and stockpiles?

[Qandil] Yes, the size of population can be considered an objective basis along with reserves and stockpiles, which is the main basis. Some countries have huge stockpiles, but their populations are small, and therefore they do not need all that money. However, we cannot interfere in the internal affairs of these countries because they may have their own ways of investment inside and outside their borders. Still, I believe that the size of population is very important. Take Nigeria for instance. Its population is increasing, and therefore it will continue to be considered a poor country no matter how large its oil production. Therefore, I say that several different factors must be taken into consideration when determining a formula for controling quotas, such as the population factor, which I consider more important than the war factor itself.

[Al-Sa'id] OPEC is making accusations that there is no real contribution from countries outside OPEC and that all they have offered so far is lip service. There has not been any backing on prices, and countries outside OPEC are increasing their production whenever there is an improvement in prices.

[Qandil] I do not believe that such an accusation applies to Egypt. Nobody has twisted our arm in order to back OPEC or any other group. Egypt is known to stick to its word. If the countries making these accusations are themselves known for violating their pledges, then this cannot be said of Egypt, which has made great sacrifices for the sake of honoring its word and pledge. Generally speaking, we are ready for any kind of revision. Let it be the first and last time in which we prove that whatever they say on this subject is a big lie.

[Al-Sa'id] How can we reach formulas guaranteeing the interests of the producer and at the same time taking into consideration the conditions of the consumer? Can we sit down and calmly envision a reasonable picture for the next few years?

[Qandil] No doubt, this is the sensible thing to do. In fact, this is the question which awaits an answer from the oil producing countries. This is exactly what we advocated in 1984 when we took part in the OPEC meetings. The objective was not to increase the number of countries monopolizing oil production as much as it was to reach a formula for mutual understanding between the producer and the consumer countries. This is because the consumer countries do not purchase oil as countries but as companies which work in the oil industry in some countries of the region, including Egypt. These companies help us in reaching formulas which can be respected by our countries and the companies themselves and which will form the basis for firm or semifirm prices.

Unstable prices are a burden on the industry and the consumers more than they are on the oil producers.

[Al-Sa'id] King Fahd has called on the OPEC countries to reach a long-term agreement in order to avoid sharp fluctuations in prices and to serve the world economy in such a way so not to expose it to severe shocks that might harm both producers and consumers as a result of sharp fluctuations. What do you think?

[Qandil] To be honest, His Majesty King Fahd has graciously exerted many efforts in this respect. But Saudi Arabia cannot enforce its will alone. In fact, it is not King Fahd's principle or aim to enforce his will on others. This is what I clearly understood from my discussions with his majesty. His aim is to create a suitable atmosphere for the producing countries. Saudi Arabia, in its capacity as one of the main oil producers in the world, is leading this trend. No doubt, any country which is interested in internal stability must also be interested in external stability. Its foreign relations, whether political, commercial, or otherwise, must be firm and stable. This is why Saudi Arabia, which depends on oil as a principal source of revenue, is interested in maintaining the stability of the world oil market.

Actually, we are doing our best. I have very close coordination with my brother Saudi Oil Minister Hisham al-Nazir. Our ideas are very close on this subject. But what is important is not close ideas as much as good assessment of the situation by the rest of the producers. The rest of the producers must not engage in rivalry as this will only choke the world market.

[Al-Sa'id] Saudi Arabia is seeking, at the same time, to come up with means that can guarantee a slow rise in prices through producer-consumer cooperation. To what extent is this feasible?

[Qandil] A slow rise in prices hinges on a rise in consumption rates because today we are on the edge of a very steep precipice. Therefore, a rise in prices cannot but be slow, unless a world war breaks out, which is a different issue with its own dimensions. However, in light of the special perspective of the international understanding between the two superpowers and the rest of the East European states, the concept of wars breaking out or tensions heightening in any region of the world has been completely excluded. The only solution, therefore, can be through a slow increase in accordance with the increase of consumption rates. And I believe that consumption rates have been met through setting up innumerable nuclear reactors on the part of big or affluent countries, which enabled them to make do without many of their oil needs to generate electricity.

The second thing is that, by setting up more gas pipelines in the world, another part of crude oil has been dispensed with. This part became exclusive to certain areas and cannot be set aside for the time being, because there is no alternative to it in these areas. Perhaps what helped us through the recent years was the decrease in the rates of generating electricity by snow melting, which was very meager during the past years in light of the hot weather. Perhaps people might know of ways to preserve this level of oil consumption and not waste anything of what they consume.

[Al-Sa'id] Iraq has recently asked for increasing oil prices by 40 percent to reach $25. Is that possible, especially when other countries are asking for the same thing; Iran, for instance, especially if this campaign is based on the OPEC countries' control of production quotas and not exceeding them?

[Qandil] This could have been the case, had the countries united. I support those who call for increasing oil prices. In fact, we called for this earlier. Increasing oil prices, however, will not be achieved through requests, but through implementation. So, if countries implemented this and abided by it, this could be possible. For, I cannot produce 4 billion bpd, and, at the same time, call for a price increase.

[Al-Sa'id] We should not forget that increasing the production quotas of countries like Iraq and Iran, which have postwar reconstruction requirements, is justifiable.

[Qandil] You are right, and I do support them. However, before the OPEC countries start producing these huge amounts, they should study the market thoroughly. If all countries united and decided on a fixed price, let us say $25 for their oil—which we advocated prior to 1985—this, then, could be implemented. I repeat that we support and back Iraq's call in this regard.

[Al-Sa'id] Recently, the current OPEC chairman warned that world oil prices are likely to collapse unless OPEC reduces its production according to what was agreed on. Can prices be revived in August and September with the advent of the storage season?

[Qandil] Undoubtedly, this year's storage season is somewhat unfamiliar because it started early. Usually, it starts in August and September, but this year it began with the countries' increase of their production and reduction in prices. If we do not make an immediate decision to reduce production now and not next month or later, then we can say that the issue is finished and we should all forget about it.

[Al-Sa'id] This means oil prices will not be revived?

[Qandil] Certainly this will not happen as long as we are producing on merit, and filling the markets with very huge amounts of oil. I know many things, which I cannot discuss because it might cause embarrassment to talk about what is currently taking place in the international oil markets.

[Al-Sa'id] Kuwait has announced that it is seeking to increase its oil-production quota in order to reduce the deficit in its general budget, which amounted to $5 billion in 1990/91?

[Qandil] All countries in the world have deficit in their trade balance and budgets. The most manifest proof is Egypt. What I know, however, is that Kuwait's non-oil revenues outweigh its oil revenues; therefore, I do not believe that oil alone is responsible for what is happening here. This is a policy which concerns Kuwait alone, however, and it can discuss it with its colleagues in the Gulf Cooperation Council or in OPEC. I cannot interfere in this policy, nor will I comment on it.

[Al-Sa'id] But you agree with me that asking every country to increase production is bound to stir problems and difficulties?

[Qandil] The most obvious evidence is the current events. Every country has increased production—even if they claim the contrary. This has adversely affected the international oil market and led to very low prices recently, close to the prices that prevailed in 1986.

[Al-Sa'id] Although prices are low, there are certain indications that OPEC will regain control over the international oil trade because it has the ability to meet the increasing demands.

[Qandil] I do not know whether the aim is to gain control or to find clients or to maintain a stable income for the state? Many aims are being pursued. However, it seems that these aims come to the limelight on specific occasions. Every occasion has its aim. So, now we started hearing about many aims and many occasions, and started linking aims to occasions. I will not comment on this.

[Al-Sa'id] To which of these aims, however, do you attach priority?

[Qandil] Working to increase oil prices regardless of the method. It is not important whether we add 4 or 5 million barrels more. What is important, however, is to get a $1 increase because the dollar's purchasing value has decreased. And here lies the real loss of the oil-producing countries.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Jeddah statement which calls for giving priority to remedying the course of oil prices, in order to ensure that 1 barrel will get more than $18?

[Qandil] I welcome the statement, and pray to God that it will be implemented. For the time being, we are concerned for all producers due to the fact that the next two months will be a very difficult period.

Libya

Sabri Al-Banna Allegedly in Prison or Dead

AU2407183090 Vienna Television Service in German 1730 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] In Libya troops loyal to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat reportedly managed to score a hit against the Palestinian terrorist group Fatah-Revolutionary Council headed by Abu Nidal [Sabri al- Banna]. Abu Nidal himself is allegedly in prison in Libya or has even been executed. The Abu Nidal group is considered responsible for, among other things, the assassination of Vienna City Councillor Heinz Nittel, the attack on the synagogue in Vienna, and the attacks at the airports of Vienna and Rome.

Al-Qadhdhafi Expresses Gratitude to Bendjedid

LD2507091690 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, July 25, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has sent a message to President Chadli Bendjedid of sisterly Algeria. It reads:

Your excellency, brotherly dear Chadli Bendjedid.. On leaving our Mujahid city, Algiers, we express to yourself our gratitude for your warm welcome and brotherly Arab hospitality during our stay among our people in Algeria, besides your affection and heartfelt feelings together with your brothers and our Arab people.

We express to yourself our utmost comfort for the positive results achieved down the road of building the Arab Maghreb Union in its previous session starting our present session.

Your chairmanship of the union in this session suggests to us that other unionist achievements will be accomplished with Allah's willingness due to what we have seen in yourself and have known about you in terms of your devotion, faithfulness and matchless credibility and far-sightedness. This will advance our unionist action forward by stages.

May Allah make your action successful.

Forward and our revolutionary struggle continues.

Brotherly yours,

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Sudan

Interior Minister Departs for Talks in Iraq

AB2107211190 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 21 July (SUNA)—Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Revolution Command Council member and interior minister, left the country this morning at the head of a high-level delegation, composed of senior officials from the interior ministry, for a five-day visit to the Republic of Iraq.

His excellency and members of his delegation will meet senior Iraqi officials and hold talks on the strengthening of security relations between the two countries in the field of developing [words indistinct].

The delegation includes Major General Awad Khawjali, police commissioner general, and Major General Idris Muhammad Fadlullah, commissioner general of the fire brigade.

Foreign Minister Affirms Operation Lifeline

EA2107152290 Khartoum SUNA in English 1631 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 20 July (SUNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul affirmed that the Operation Lifeline Sudan is continuing satisfactorily in the operations zones in the south. He added that Sudan is currently conducting contacts in collaboration with the UN to prompt the international community to extend the necessary assistance for covering the needs of the operation.

To Request Support for Refugees

EA2207171490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, has stressed that during the forthcoming 45th session of the UN General Assembly planned to take place next September, Sudan will give priority to the issue of receiving support to face the burden of its refugee influx; Operation Lifeline, to rescue the affected people in combat zones; and international issues which are of concern to the regional alliances of which Sudan is a member.

On Sudan's foreign relations, his excellency the foreign minister said that he had held discussions with a number of top-ranking officials in the United States, Britain, France, and the Scandinavian countries during his recent tour in western Europe within the framework of the ministerial delegation of the group of the least developed countries. The discussions concerned cooperation relations between Sudan and those countries in addition to issues of common concern.

His excellency pointed out that the Foreign Ministry is still carrying out plans for a Year of Africa, adding that the visit by Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir to Namibia to attend that country's independence celebrations had come within this framework. He also pointed to the intensive visits by RCC members to African countries in the past, the meetings which will be held within the framework of the Year of Africa, and Sudan's efforts to strengthen Arab-African cooperation.

Official Returns From Egypt Visit, Comments

EA2507080290 Khartoum SUNA in English 0911 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24th July (SUNA)—Command Council member and head of peace committee Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has described his recent talks with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt as "constructive and successful".

Col. Khalifah, who returned home Monday [23 July], said President Mubarak has reaffirmed his country's constant support for the Sudan as a full belief in depth and strength of relations between the two countries. Col. Khalifah told daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" Tuesday, that his talks with President Husni Mubarak had been "very frank and open" on all issues discussed by the two officials.

Col. Khalifah has meanwhile refuted reports that Sudan was training Egyptian opposition elements. He said these were allegations circulated and that Sudan would never host elements opposing government in Egypt.

Col. Khalifah said he has proposed the formation of a joint Sudano-Egyptian security committee to probe these "unfounded allegations".

He told the paper that president has also inquired about alleged presence of Islamic Jihad leadership in Sudan, pointing out that he had refuted the reports adding that Egyptian ambassador to [no country given] was promptly informed at the time when these allegations surfaced.

Col. Khalifah has meanwhile revealed that President Mubarak has expressed dissatisfaction over activities of Sudanese opposition groups in Cairo, Egypt. He said President Mubarak has demanded a list of opposition elements in Egypt.

Col. Khalifah said President Mubarak has also briefed him on the talks he had with rebel leader John Garang. President Mubarak has described Garang's position as more mild this time, Col. Khalifah was quoted by daily "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" as saying. He said President Mubarak has assured him Egypt would not take any move in the peace issue without taking into account Sudan's interests.

Tunisia

Israeli Flights Prompt Security Forces' Measures

NC2407110990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jul (MENA)—Strict security measures have been taken for certain Palestinian leaders over the past few days after unofficial reports have circulated about Israeli planes' violating the Tunisian airspace. According to these unconfirmed reports, five Israeli planes violated Tunisian airspace on the evening of the first day of 'Id al-Adha. Other reports, however, note that one Israeli plane flew a high-altitude reconnaissance mission to monitor certain Palestinian positions.

The Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ today reports concern in Tunisian circles following rumors about a possible Israeli operation similar to that launched against the PLO headquarters in the Hammam al-Shatt area in 1988 in which several Tunisians and Palestinians were killed. It is worth noting that Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu-Jihad, was assasinated in a similar operation in April 1988.

The paper notes that a closely studied Tunisian-Palestinian plan has been drawn up as a precaution against any possible Israeli terrorist operation.

The paper reports that strict security measures have been adopted and that the security forces are checking the identity of drivers in the capital's streets day and night, particularly in the neighborhoods where Palestinians reside.

However, diplomatic sources do not rule out the possibility of an Israeli aggression against Libya, rather than Tunisia.

Reportage on Ben Ali's Visit to the FRG

WA1807110490

For reportage on the two-day state visit by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the FRG, see the Federal Republic of Germany of the 17 July issue of the West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bahrain

Iraqi Envoy Arrives in Manama on Visit 24 Jul

To Deliver Saddam Message

JN2407121190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0550 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Jul (WAKH)—Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab arrived in Manama this morning on a visit to Bahrain during which he will convey a message to His Highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

He was received on arrival by Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifa Al Khalifah and the Iraqi Ambassador to Bahrain Taha Mahmud al-Qaysi.

Amir Receives Envoy, Message

JN2407134490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Manama, 24 Jul (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the latest developments in the region.

The message was delivered by Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab when he was received by his highness the amir of Bahrain in Manama today in the presence of Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah; Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, deputy under secretary at the Passport and Immigration Affairs Department in the Foreign Ministry; and Iraqi Ambassador to Bahrain Mr. Taha Mahmud al-Qaysi.

Prime Minister Leaves on Private Visit to Europe

JN2407175190 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Manama, July 24 (GNA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah left here this morning for Europe on a private visit.

He was seen off at the airport by H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, senior ruling family members, ministers, and other government officials.

H.H. the amir issued a decree appointing the crown prince and commander-in-chief of the Defence Force to function as prime minister during the absence of Shaykh Khalifah.

Kuwait

Amir Hopes Dialogue Can Resolve Dispute

LD2407121890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1052 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, July 24 (KUNA)—The Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah on Tuesday expressed his hope that the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq would be settled through dialogue and understanding.

Receiving a delegation representing professional and social organizations in the country, who called to reassure him of the Kuwaiti people's support to his leadership, the amir asserted that the dispute with Iraq would be contained within the framework of the one Arab family through dialogue and fraternal understanding.

The delegation expressed surprise at the unfounded Iraqi accusations which contradict international norms and good neighbourly relations.

Denouncing the Iraqi charges, the delegation renewed allegiance for the amir's wise leadership in order to maintain the country's sovereignty and safeguard its national wealth.

'Text' of Kuwaiti Memo to Arab League

JN2407153090 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 20 Jul 90 p 6

["Full text" of Kuwaiti memorandum to Arab League dated 18 July]

[Text] Your excellency brother Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League:

Best greetings.

We received with deep astonishment and surprise the Iraqi Government's memorandum addressed to your excellency and dated on 15 July 1990, and which was distributed to the fraternal member states of the Arab League. The memorandum's allegations and accusations against Kuwait are unfounded. Its expressions are out of line with the spirit of the existing fraternal relations between Kuwait and Iraq, and conflict with the most fundamental bases on which we all wish to govern our Arab relations. What creates more surprise is that this memorandum comes at a time when the Arab nation is passing through an important and critical phase—a phase that requires all Arab efforts to be directed toward vital Arab issues, following the region's emergence from a bloody, devastating war.

It is indeed painful that as the Arab League ends its emergency meeting in which the Zionist and imperialist threats to the Arab nation were discussed, Iraq comes up with a memorandum that entails threats to Arab League members. While expressing indignation at this memorandum, Kuwait would like to stress that it has been dealing with its fraternal Arab countries out of its commitment to the principles and values of the Arab League Charter, which basically underscores bolstering fraternal bonds, maintaining good-neighborliness and noninterference in internal affairs, and respecting the sovereignty of all states. This is in addition to the Arab ethics and values that govern relations between brothers. Kuwait was and still is a pioneer in providing all opportunities for creating cohesive Arab relations and avoiding everything that might spoil these relations.

What makes Kuwait even more surprised is that the memorandum of fraternal Iraq comes at a time when coordination between the two countries in the various fields of mutual concern is continuing with a view to maintaining steadily developing normal relations. Kuwait was not thinking of raising the pending issues for discussion in an atmosphere of frantic propaganda. Specialized committees were tasked with following up these issues with a view to promoting and developing aspects of cooperation in a manner that overrides issues of disagreement.

The memorandum also comes at a time when Kuwait is making goodwill efforts on all levels to enhance security and stability in the region, which is eager for a just peace.

Your excellency the secretary general: Questions are raised by the fact that this memorandum by sisterly Iraq—along with all the damage it has done to fraternal relations between the two countries—came out at a time when Iraq was at the head of brothers calling for achieving accord in Arab relations and avoiding everything that could spoil these relations to create a balance in the interest of common Arab action.

Proceeding from its belief in the importance of common Arab action, Kuwait has painstakingly sought to enhance this action and provide the appropriate opportunities to support development in the Arab homeland. Perhaps the effective and powerful role played by the various Kuwaiti financial institutions since Kuwait's independence is the best proof that Kuwait has been eager to push the development process froward to meet the legitimate ambitions and interests of the Arab nation. It is known in this respect that Kuwait is at the top of world nations whose aid constitutes the largest percentage of its national revenues. The lion's share of this aid goes to the fraternal Arab states.

Your Excellency the secretary general:

It is painful that the memorandum claims that Kuwait has sought to weaken Iraq. This comes at a time when everyone is aware of Kuwait's support for sisterly Iraq. Kuwait has adhered to this stance from the beginning out of its faithfulness to its pan-Arab principles and out of what is dictated by its pan-Arab duties within the framework of the Arab League. Everybody knows how much Kuwait endured and suffered as a result of this pan-Arab stance. Kuwait was exposed to direct aggressions that were targeted against its sons, territory, oil installations, oil tankers, and trade interests. However, it stood up loftily in this fierce war, adhering to its principles and objectives. It is not a Kuwaiti trait to announce the support it gave to sisterly Iraq. Kuwait believes that Iraq alone is the one that should announce or not announce this, because the Arab blood that was shed cannot be compared with any financial assets, no matter how high the figures.

It is really painful to see the twisted objectives obliterating the facts and distorting the history, which we are still living and whose ink has not yet dried.

What calls for astonishment within this context is the fact that this accusation is leveled against Kuwait at a time when Iraq is still praising the Kuwaiti stances through statements made by Iraqi officials or through the various Iraqi media.

Your Excellency the secretary general:

The allegations mentioned in the memorandum with regard to the issue of borders between Iraq and Kuwait—that Kuwait escalated the pace of the gradual, systematic advance toward Iraqi territory by setting up military installations, police posts, oil installations, and farms on Iraqi terrirory—are false and a reversal of facts. Iraq has a full record of violations on Kuwaiti territory. This record, which is supported by facts, is kept with the concerned officials.

Kuwait has tried continuously to demarcate the border and end the problems. However, Iraq has continued to refuse to put an end to this issue between the two countries at a time when Iraq sought, during the war, to make a final demarcation of borders with the other neighborly, sisterly Arab states.

In order to underscore Kuwait's interest in concluding this important issue with Iraq, and out of Kuwait's belief in the soundness of its stand and in what its pan-Arab affiliation dictates, Kuwait seeks an Arab arbitration committee whose members will agree to decide on the issue of border demarcation on the basis of the charters and documents between Kuwait and Iraq.

Your Excellency the secretary general:

Any observer of the issue of the oil prices clearly realizes that the deterioration of the prices was caused by a world problem, to which producers, consumers, OPEC, and non-OPEC members are parties.

Like Iraq, Kuwait has suffered from low production quotas during the same periods in the eighties at a time when it could have increased its production capacities in view of its huge oil reserves. However, Kuwait has adhered to the production quotas, with all the sacrifices they entailed, in order to preserve its national resources and to achieve a better price ceiling.

Regarding the contention in the memo that Kuwait has been setting up oil installations in the southern part of the Iraqi al-Rumaylah oilfield since 1980, the truth here can be summed up as follows: Kuwait has begun prospecting and drilling operations inside its territories since

1963. Those operations then stopped for reasons that are very well known to Iraq. Kuwait resumed the drilling operations in 1976 in order to complete all operations and to begin production in the late seventies.

Regarding the Iraqi memo's claim that Kuwait extracted oil from the southern part of the Iraqi al-Rumaylah oilfield, it must be affirmed here that this part of the field exists inside the Kuwaiti territories. Therefore, Kuwait has extracted oil from wells situated within its territory, south of the Arab League line and at an adequate distance from the international border according to world standards.

The production operations are taking place inside Kuwaiti territory contrary to what came in the Iraqi memo. Iraq has made and is still making repeated attempts to drill wells inside Kuwaiti territories, inflicting great harm on the reserves of the field that lies in that area within Kuwaiti territory. Despite Kuwait's repeated objections and Iraq's encroachments on Kuwaiti territory, Kuwait refrained from raising this problem on the Arab level and was satisfied with bilateral contacts.

Your Excellency, the secretary general:

While voicing its willingness to consider the proposal in the Iraqi memo concerning the establishment of an Arab development and assistance fund, Kuwait sincerely believes that this proposal could be submitted for study and consideration within the Arab League framework. However, what is not understandable or acceptable to Kuwait is that this proposal be coupled with slanders and insults, given that Kuwait was at the forefront of states that called for setting down the basis for promoting joint Arab action to realize the Arab nation's supreme interests.

In conclusion, and while relying only on facts in its reply to the Iraqi memo, which represented a negative development in fraternal relations between the two countries, Kuwait would like to warn against the dangers that could result from employing such methods in relations among brothers—methods that would draw our nation's attention away from vital Arab issues.

In order to make our position clear, we hope that your excellency will distribute this memo among the fraternal Arab states.

Please accept our greetings and good wishes.

[Signed] Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Papers Urge Self-Restraint in Iraq Dispute

LD2507082190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0801 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait July 25 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti newspapers on Wednesday continued giving front-page prominence to the Iraq-Kuwait dispute over oil and border grievances.

The leading daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM welcomed Arab mediatory efforts led by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and urged Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to exercise self restraint.

"It is not in the interest of anyone to magnify and prolong the crisis. The harm will rebound on all Iraq and Kuwait and entire Arab nation—and most dangerous now is stubbornness," opined AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM. It said the world is watching this dispute with profound concern and the big powers are lurking and waiting for the opportunity to find a pretext to deal an "abortive" blow to the rising Arab force, including Iraq.

"Therefore, we as Arabs, and through uncalculated recklessness are putting the Arab destiny into the unknown," the paper said.

It called on the intermediaries to deal fairly and objectively in their efforts to settle the dispute, urging Iraq to give due concern to these principles.

AL-WATAN daily lashed out at anti-Arab foreign media for deliberately attempting to escalate the situation in a bid to thwart conciliatory efforts.

The paper called on Iraq to reconsider its positions, to deal with Kuwait with the spirit of national responsibility and not to reckon to the logic of the strong and the weak.

AL-WATAN warned that any serious tension would lead to a mess in Arab alliances and would deal a painful blow to Arab solidarity.

What is needed from sisterly Iraq is more wisdom and little media or non-media escalation which could return to our own chests in this region and which could put the Gulf region including Iraq in an endless dark tunnel, a matter we don't wish for ourselves or for Iraq or any Arab country," the paper concluded.

Egypt's Mubarak, Delegation Arrive on Visit

Welcomed by Amir

LD2407133590 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt and his accompanying delegation arrived at Kuwait International Airport at 1420 this afternoon on a brief working visit to the country. His Excellency was welcomed at the airport by his brother, High Highness the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness the Heir Apparent and prime minister, and His Highness the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

His Excellency is accompanied by a delegation that includes Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Safwat al-Sharif, the information minister; Zakariyah 'Azmi, director of the

Presidential Office; Dr. Ussamah al-Baz, first undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of political affairs at the President's Office; and Dr. Mustafa al-Fiqi, the president's information secretary.

President, Delegation Leave

LD2407151890 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt [ARE] and an accompanying delegation left Kuwait at 1745 after a short working visit to the country.

His brother, his highness the amir of the country; his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister were at the head of those who saw him off. He was also seen off by the ministers and the speaker of National Assembly; governors; members of the staff off the ARE embassy in Kuwait, and a number of senior state officials.

Spokesman Terms Talks 'Productive'

LD2407184190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1822 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Jul (KUNA)—An official Kuwaiti spokesman described today's meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, as productive. He praised the efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the leaders of the Arab countries to contain the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute. He expressed his hope that these efforts would be successful.

The Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadai, said that the tenor of the positive talks held by President Mubarak during his visit to Baghdad this morning, and the details concerning the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq—which Kuwait has been eager to keep as an Arab affair and for the responsibility for dealing with them to remain within the circle of Arab brothers—were discussed at the meeting, which was attended by his royal highness the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah. He added: Pesident Mujbarak's initiative is a true embodiment of commitment to that pan-Arab principle.

Dr. Awadi praised the positive role assumed by the big sister, the Arab Republic of Egypt, in persistently working to contain disputes among brothers, and in doing its utmost to bolster and consolidate Arab solidarity.

Dr. Awadi concluded by saying: While Kuwait expresses its great appreciation of the sincere efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the leaders of other Arab countries, it regards sisterly Egypt's initiative as a responsible brotherly step toward the materialization of the constituents of protecting the Arab national security, and it hopes that all these sincere endeavors and efforts would be successful for the sake of the unity of Arab ranks and the strengthening of security and stability in the Arab homeland.

Oman

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Message for Sultan

JN2407182090 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Salalah, July 24 (GNA)—Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab arrived in Salalah today on a few day visit to Oman.

The Iraqi Minister told OMANI NEWS AGENCY that he is carrying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

He was received upon arrival by the Omani Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sa'id Bin Ahmad al-Shanfari and the Iraqi ambassador to the Sultanate.

Information Minister Reviews Regional Issues

PM2407102090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 23 Jul 90 pp 19-21

[Interview with Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas by Muhammad Sa'id al-Hasan in Muscat; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Hasan] The Sultanate of Oman has pursued a foreign policy which enjoys respect and appreciation both regionally and internationally. This has made its initiatives the object of interest, especially with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement. What stage has been reached in these endeavors?

[Al-Rawwas] Since the dawn of advancement in 1970 his majesty's government has pursued certain fundamental principles in its foreign policy—noninterference in others' internal affairs, the prevention of interference by others in its own internal affairs, and the pursuit of a good neighbor policy—which are derived from teachings of the true religion, respect for national sovereignty, and the policy of peaceful coexistence between states and mutual interest within the framework of mutual respect. [passage omitted]

The Iraq-Iran war broke out and its fire destroyed two Muslim countries. His majesty's government had to work to extinguish that fire, because it served no one. We continued tireless efforts to reach an understanding, make contacts, and conduct consultations to secure a rapprochement and alleviate the effects and calamities of the war.

Tireless efforts are continuing and the Sultanate will spare no efforts with all parties to secure a peace agreement between the two Muslim neighbors on the basis of a just solution for both sides. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] Do you believe that an atmosphere similar to that of the June 1967 war exists in the region and that Israel is preparing for a settlement war?

[Al-Rawwas] My assessment of what is happening in the Middle East is the same as the entire world's. Nobody says that the Middle East is not experiencing tension. The source of that tension is the Palestinian issue and an occupied territory called Palestine. There is a homeless people—the Palestinian people. These people are demanding their just rights and an independent state—a demand upheld by the international community. When the United Nations approved the establishment of the State of Israel in its 1947 resolution it also approved the establishment of the state of Palestine. That legislation will only be completed with the establishment of the independent state of Palestine.

The Palestinian people must receive support and must remain on their own territory and homeland to preserve their pan-Arabism and entity. Perhaps we could cite here the EC statement in Dublin, which was a crucial indication of Europe's concept of civilization and human rights.

[Al-Hasan] Do you believe that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's call for direct negotiations with Jordan and Syria is serious, or is it designed to evade the peace process?

[Al-Rawwas] It is important to realize that we share a common destiny and that our position will be the same, whatever the circumstances. So if they turn to peace—that is, the true and sincere peace—then let us turn to it. "But if the enemy inclines toward peace, do you also incline toward peace, and trust in God." [Koranic verse]

Almighty God says: Against them prepare your strength, including the steeds of war, to the utmost of your power to strike terror into (the heart of) the enemies of God, your enemies, and others besides whom you may not know, but whom God knows. [Koranic verse]

[Al-Hasan] How do you view the U.S. suspension of the dialogue with the PLO?

[Al-Rawwas] I do not know why we are making a big issue out that dialogue. Why did it stop? What did it achieve?

The principal issue is the Palestinian issue, and the criterion is Palestine and the Palestinian people. Outside that context the dialogue, its suspension, questions raised about it, even crying about it will not lead to the essence of what is required. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hasan] Do you believe that the 30-month-old people's intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories can continue under the present siege and violence? How can support for it be guaranteed?

[Al-Rawwas] The people's intifadah erupted after a long period of patience and waiting. It is an expression of desperation about resolutions and foreign contacts. The people's intifadah emphasizes adherence to the rights and the homeland. The Palestinian people are paying the price now. Every day martyrs and casualties from among them are sacrificed. So the intifadah must be supported, because it seeks to recover the rights and to end the arrogance surrounding it.

Unfortunately, although the Jewish people have continued to talk about the myth of their sufferings during Nazi rule and the Nazi repressive measures against them, Israel—under the eyes of the entire world—is now applying the Nazi complex to the unarmed Palestinian people and using its troops and bombs to confront the intifadah and the children of the intifadah.

The intifadah erupted and has continued to inform the conscience of the entire world that there are rights which must be recovered and restored.

[Al-Hasan] Do you believe that there is an urgent need for an initiative to tackle the situation in the Middle East so that Arab territory will not be plundered?

[Al-Rawwas] I do not seen any need for initiatives. I see nothing except the intifadah and the need for its continuation, so that Israel will—unwillingly or willingly—agree to restore the Palestinian people's rights and exchange land for peace.

This is the principle endorsed by the United Nations. And the European summit statement constitutes a genuine start, because it warns Israel that if it wants peace, it must exchange land for peace and learn from the decade of the nineties, because war serves no one. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Saddam Message to Amir

JN2407135190 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Doha, July 24 (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's envoy Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab handed a message to Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani on bilateral ties and new events in the region.

Qatari Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah received President Husayn's message in a meeting today here with the Iraqi envoy.

President Husayn's envoy has left Doha, concluding a short visit to Qatar within a tour in the region's countries.

Draft Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR

JN2407174490 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Doha, July 24 (GNA)—A trade, economic and technical cooperation draft agreement was initialled here today at the close of official economic talks between the state of Qatar and the Soviet Union.

Director of the Ministry of Trade and Economy Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Jasim Bin Muhammad Al Thani initialled the agreement for Qatar while the undersecretary of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Mordvinov, who is visiting Qatar, initialled for his country.

The two sides agreed that the final signing of the agreement would enhance the economic relations between the two countries in the long run and would serve their joint interests.

The two sides affirmed in the minutes of the talks held between the Qatari and Soviet delegations that the talks which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual respect came as a natural continuation of cooperation between the two countries since the establishment of diplomatic ties between them in 1988.

During the talks, which opened yesterday, the two sides reviewed the bilateral economic relations, means of fostering them and the possibility of cooperation in oil, gas, industrial and agricultural sectors.

The two sides also approved the establishment of direct contacts between government and private sector institutions, the organizing of trade fairs in both countries, the exchange of visits by experts and specialists, the enhancing of cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the two countries and the encouragement of meetings between especialized [as received] institutions in the two countries with the view of establishing joint ventures in Qatar the Soviet Union.

Soviet Official Departs

JN2407193290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 24 Jul (INA)—Vladimir Mordvinov, under secretary of the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, and his delegation left Doha this evening after a four-day visit to the State of Qatar. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Presidential Council on Iraq-Kuwait Conflict

JN2407155890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The Presidential Council held a meeting at the Presidential Palace today under Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to discuss several topics on the agenda, including several appointments at the presidential office and the central organ for control and auditing. The Council also discussed the results of intensive contacts and efforts by the brother president together with the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait to resolve the recent dispute between them in order to reinforce solidarity, brotherhood, and Arab ranks, to protect the pan-Arab security, and to foil the plans being hatched by the enemies of the Arab nation to undermine the Arab nation's solidarity and unity.

The Council then expressed its satisfaction with and appreciation for the positive response by the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait to the efforts being exerted to resolve the recent dispute between the two countries within the framework of the higher goals of our Arab nation.

Housing Minister Dies in FRG Hospital 24 Jul

JN2407184090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Engineer 'Abd-al-Qawi Muthanna Hadi, minister of housing and urban planning, today passed away at a FRG hospital, to which he was taken after suffering a brain stroke. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Egypt's Mubarak Meets With King Fahd, Departs

LD2407222690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud and his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting in Jeddah this evening.

This fraternal meeting took place as a continuation of the constant consultation between the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak concerning the conditions in the Arab area in light of the new developments. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak left Jeddah following his short visit.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud went to see him off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport.

He was also seen off by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes Iranian Involvement in Lebanon

PM2407114890 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 jul 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Iranian Folly In Lebanon: How Long?"]

[Text] As signs of peace begin to appear in Lebanon as a result of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee's efforts; as normal life begins to return to Beirut with the reopening of airports and schools; and following the election of the president of the republic and the speaker of the chamber of deputies and the appointment of a prime minister in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement reached with the approval of the Lebanese deputies, some elements hostile to Lebanon and the entire nation have acted to wreak havoc, devastation, and destruction, first in Beirut's southern suburb and now in southern Lebanon.

After the Lebanese people's sigh of relief and revived hope that Lebanon's legitimate authority would extend to all parts of Lebanon, clashes and subsequently violent battles have erupted between the Lebanese Amal Movement and the so-called Hizballah, claiming the lives of innocent people, displacing thousands, and causing destruction everywhere.

As confirmed by Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri and Zayd Wahbah, Fatah's political affairs official in Lebanon, Iran was directly responsible for the clashes in southern Lebanon.

Following that clear and frank indictment, the Lebanese must unite and expel that alien element from their ranks to prevent it from undermining all that has been achieved in the interest of peace and stability in Lebanon.

The Lebanese are capable of expelling anyone who kills Lebanese people, renders them homeless, and brings destruction to their country. They do not need the interference of any foreign power in their affairs.

The current phase in the Lebanese crisis is the most critical as Hizballah reveals its aggressive intentions against all the Lebanese people and as it uses artillery and rockets to bombard Lebanese towns and villages, killing scores of innocent people.

The Lebanese people are no longer unaware of the aims of Iran and its puppets in Lebanon. That places a greater responsibility on their shoulders—the responsibility to confront that grave danger.

Lebanon, which has suffered long years of vicious war, aspires to peace and to every sincere effort to support its legitimate authority and to implement the remaining provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement. It does not need those who come to kill and displace Lebanese people and to spread terror everywhere.

Sudanese Leader Arrives on Visit 24 Jul

Greeted by King Fahd

LD2407145990 Riyadh SPA in English 1350 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 24 July, SPA—His Excellency Gen. Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council of National Salvation in the Republic of Sudan, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom. He was greeted at the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al'-Aziz Al Sa'ud, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard. [passage omitted]

Leaves After Visit

LD2407160290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1542 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 24 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in the Republic of Sudan, left Jeddah this evening after a brief visit to the kingdom. He was seen off at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz international airport by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Sudanese Envoy Delivers Message to President

JN2407173990 Manama WAKH in English 1526 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 24 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a letter from Sudanese Leader 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir dealing with bilateral ties, Arab developments, and the situation in Sudan.

It was delivered to UAE Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan by member of the Sudanese Command Council of the National Salvation Front, Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan.

Departs for London 25 Jul

JN2507093090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jul (WAKH)—Staff Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council and chairman of the political committee in Sudan, left Abu Dhabi today for London following a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. [passage omitted]

Saddam Reportedly Summons U.S. Ambassador

JN2507121390 Baghdad INA in English 1205 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn today summoned ambassador of the United States April C. Glaspie.

The audience was attended by Mr. Tariq 'Aziz deputy premier and foreign minister.

Receives Call From Yemen's Salih

JN2407190590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1806 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call this evening from his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council.

During the telephone call they discussed relations between the two countries and Arab issues.

Receives Call From Egypt's Mubarak

JN2507124990 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received a telephone call from President Husni Mubarak of Egypt.

During the contact the two leaders discussed bilateral ties and recent developments in the region.

Editorial Attacks Kuwait's 'Hostile Behavior'

JN2507105790 Baghdad INA in English 0958 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily has held the Kuwaiti Government responsible for the damage it inflicted upon Iraq in service of foreign powers.

In its editorial for today, the daily has confirmed that the second letter sent by the Iraqi foreign minister to Secretary General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi in response to the Kuwait memorandum had disclosed more facts concerning the Kuwaiti Government's hostile stances towards Iraq and its long-standing role in an imperialist plan trying to undermine Iraq's economy and prepare for a preemptive Zionist attack aimed at obliterating all signs of scientific and technological progress in Iraq.

The daily has added that the sad fact that every Arab citizen should know is that the Kuwaiti Government's hostile behaviour against Iraq which could be considered a direct aggression came as complementary to series of aggressive acts which started long time ago, making use of Iraq's hard circumstances at that time.

It has criticized the Kuwaiti Government's hostile stance saying that instead of helping Iraq in its defence of the Arab nation, this government embarked on a hostile plan which started with trespassing on the Iraqi land and ended with stealing its oil from al-Rumaylah field, paying particular attention to increasing its funds and freeze them at the Western and American banks at the expense of Iraq.

The daily has made it clear that the so-called Kuwait aid to Iraq during the war have turned with the passage of time into loans due on Iraq, stressing the fact that these loans represent only a simple amount compared to the millions of dollars worth of oil they plundered from Iraq.

Spokesman Denounces U.S.-UAE 'Joint Exercises'

JN2407213190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2053 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its contention that the acts targeted against it were not a mistake or a coincidence but were part of a comprehensive conspiracy against the Arab nation and Iraq in particular. This was stated by an official spokesman in response to a statement by a U.S. Department of Defense spokesman with regard to holding joint exercises between U.S. and United Arab Emirates [UAE] forces. The following is the text of the statement:

The plotters have been exposed to everyone; there is no doubt about [words indistinct]. This affirms the credibility of what was said in the statement we presented to the Arab League: that the acts targeted against Iraq were not a mistake or a coincidence but were part of a comprehensive conspiracy against the Arab nation and against Iraq in particular by U.S. imperialism and Zionism. What is the meaning of this joint exercise carried out by the United States and the UAE to test the capability of the joint action between the U.S. and UAE forces?

It seems that the UAE is not ashamed to deal with evil and to slide into the abyss of treason. The officials there believe that their situation is less embarrassing before their public because the Arab people there are helpless and are (?preoccupied) with the large number of people who came there under the pretext of seeking their livelihood. So those officials became the family of the Prophet in the UAE and the Arab became a stranger there.

This might be an example that will encourage others. In fact, we are certain that this took place in coordination with others. It also affirms our warnings that the plotters are searching for pretexts and evidence to make the U.S. fleet an acceptable presence in the region.

'Aziz Reacts to Kuwaiti Statement on Iraqi Memo

JN2407173290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated the following:

In response to statements by a responsible Kuwaiti source to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY regarding the official Iraqi spokesman's comment on the Kuwaiti memorandum to the United Nations secretary general [as received], I say that border disputes between Arab countries will be solved by the concerned countries themselves and not by committees formed from a number of Arab countries, with all due respect and appreciation to all our Arab brothers, since there has not been such a precedent in the history of Arab relations.

Mr. 'Aziz adds: Kuwait's relations with Iraq have a known historic record. Those who truly understand its nuances and idiosyncracies are the Iraqis and Kuwaitis themselves, more so than any other brothers. Moreover, what brought matters to a head was the Kuwaiti Government's violations, not a dispute over anything else. What has heated things up are the links of some Kuwaiti rulers to foreigners and to their conspiratorial schemes against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister concluded his statement by saying: If the Kuwaiti leaders do not want to distance issues from their basic subject matter, then they should explore closely the contents of the two Iraqi memorandums to the Arab League secretary general, rectify the harm caused to Iraq mentioned in the memorandum without beating around the bush, stay away from the conspiratorial circles, and distance the conspirators from the center of decision. After that, the atmosphere will be right for talking about borders in an appropriate climate. After we have discovered and diagnosed the conspiracy and conspirators, no beating around the bush or equivocating will work with us. May God help the righteous people to attain their rights.

Arab League Secretary General Arrives 24 Jul

JN2407161190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad this afternoon. He was received at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Meets With Tariq 'Aziz

JN2407185690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. During the meeting they discussed current Arab issues.

Oil Minister Departs for OPEC Meeting

JN2407161090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim left Baghdad today for Geneva to take part in the OPEC Ministerial Council meetings which start tomorrow. The minister said in a statement to INA that these meetings are considered to be important and are expected to seriously contribute to changing the course the organization was previously following regarding the formulations of the agreements on production and prices set by the organization.

He added that the sharp collapse in oil prices due to violations of the production quotas fixed during the last agreement, especially by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, led to a decrease in the price of the OPEC oil barrel to less than $14 after it reached about $21 at the beginning of this year.

He said that the member states have today begun to see the need for immediate measures by fixing a precise limit for the production ceiling and quotas and being totally committed and bound to them to work toward raising prices to averages befitting the strategic importance of this vital product and the important element it represents in building the producing countries' economies.

He also said that, because of recent contacts and meetings between the organization's countries, it was found that there was unanimous agreement with Iraq's position, which calls for fixing the production ceiling and the quotas of the member states until the price averages are improved and a new minimum fixed by the organization is attained.

He added that this is what Iraq has recently asked for: that the price be no less that $25 per barrel during this year. This means that by fixing the production ceiling and adhering to it, the organization can attain the price averages it sets, especially since the recent commitment shown by the member states during the past three weeks did yield positive results, represented in improved price hike averages to more than $3.

He clarified that that is the permament strategic goal of the organization. Some should not consider it a tactical stand or a temporary stage after which pressure will once again be put to bring down the prices, either by drowning the market or by other methods, under the pretext of a fall in the demand averages during this or that season.

It is noteworthy to mention here that Iraq demanded raising the minimum price of the OPEC oil barrel to $25. Following this, work is being carried out to enact amendments to guarantee attainment of the $30 mark.

Opposes Change in Ceiling

JN2507132590 Baghdad INA in English 1140 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 25, INA—Iraqi Minister of Oil Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi announced Iraq's opposition to any change in the current production ceiling of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), until a 25-dollar-per-barrel price could be attained.

In a press statement after his arrival in Geneva to attend the OPEC 37th regular ministerial meeting, Mr. al-Jalabi said that the acceptable minimum price for OPEC oil should be 25 dollars per barrel, which once realized, any change in the output ceiling could be discussed.

He confirmed that all previous data and statements about the OPEC quotas and oil prices were still effective.

The Iraqi minister expressed his optimism over the possibility of fixing this minimum price.

Urges Halt in 'Quota-Busting'

JN2507132690 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 25, INA—Iraq has urged the OPEC member states for non quota-busting so as to stop the recent decline in oil prices.

In a statement to ALIF-BA' weekly, Minister of Oil 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim said that in its abidance of the agreed quota three million bpd [barrels per day], Iraq had embodied the capability despite its economy is an economy of war and in dire need for increasing the production. [sentence as received]

Iraq took into consideration reality of needs of the OPEC states because they are developing countries, and thus Iraq would never allow any state to glut the world oil market.

As for the oil prices, the minister said that it was difficult to predict the question of prices for next period, but Iraq has been aspiring during the next few period [as received] for driving the prices higher, taking in account the decline in real value of each oil barrel and inflation.

He added that the decline of prices had caused a decrease in the available financial resources of Iraq which is in imperative need for them specially in this delicate stage in which Iraq and the Arab nation are facing a conspiratorial scheme hatched by the Zionism and imperialism.

Kuwait Said Bringing 'Foreign Power' to Gulf

JN2407140490 Baghdad INA in English 1120 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Iraq stressed that Kuwaiti rulers were carrying out an imperialist scheme under false slogans of Arab solidarity and supporting Arab interests.

In an article today the paper said that Kuwait was participating in the implementation of an imperialist conspiracy against the Arab nation in general and Iraq in particular, adding that those facts were supported by the direct and indirect stances and policies pursued by the Kuwaiti Government.

The paper added that Kuwait has taken advantage of Iraq's preoccupation in its war with Iran to trespass on its territories and extract oil from Iraqi fields to sell for its own advantage, in addition to building military installation on Iraqi soil while at the same time it evaded demarcation of borders with Iraq to end those violations.

AL-THAWRAH continued that while Iraq was busy carrying out its wide building and reconstruction campaign as well as its ambitious plans for activating its economy, Kuwait had become a handy tool for serving Washington's scheme aimed at destroying the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) through driving oil prices to a dangerous low by flooding the market with crude oil.

The paper went on to say that by this stance Kuwait proved that it sought a cover for its well planned scheme to internationalize the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute which meant that Kuwait had abandoned the Arab option and the Arab League.

The paper said that Kuwait's major objective from internationalizing its dispute with Iraq was to call a foreign power to intervene in the region just as it had previously done when it allowed the presence of the US fleet in the Arabian Gulf under the pretext of protecting Kuwaiti tankers.

Kuwait Said Trying To 'Internationalize' Dispute

JN2407140990 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily has stressed that the Kuwaiti Government's intentions and actions are but a conspiring policy trying to undermine Iraq's economy.

In its editorial for today, the daily made it clear that when Iraq unveiled the shortcomings and mistakes of the Kuwaiti Government, it erroneously believed that there might be a sudden burst of consciousness that would urge those responsible for these mistakes to rectify their conducts, pointing out that instead of that they sent a memorandum to the Arab league in response to the facts Iraq mentioned in its memorandum to the League.

The daily has confirmed that the Kuwaiti Government is trying to internationalize this Arab issue to prepare for the intervention of the foreign powers in the region, referring to its attempts to step up coordination with the United States through its embassies in Baghdad and Washington, let alone its coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

The paper has further added that amid all this, you can hear them talking about fraternity and solidarity, claiming that Kuwait had sacrificed for the sake of Iraq and that the Gulf war had inflicted heavy damage upon Kuwait and threatened its national interests, citing the assassination attempt against Shaykh Jabir as an evidence.

It has stressed that the Kuwaiti officials and the Arab people as well are fully aware of the fact that the Iranian hostility that accompanied Khomeyni's era immediately after the success of the Iranian revolution had affected all Arab countries, including Arab Gulf states, pointing out that the slogan of building the Islamic empire under the leadership of Iran had never been the outcome of the war.

The daily has underlined the fact that Kuwait was so close to the flame of the war just as other Gulf states were at that time. It has confirmed that if the hostile plans had not tried to break the strongest Arab ring, i.e., Kuwait would have been the first target, for well-known reasons.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has added that on the basis of these facts, all Arab Gulf states were under a real threat, pointing out that in such case the self-defence requires certain prerequisites, the simplest of which material sacrifices. [as received]

The daily has emphasized that it was the fear from the coming danger and not the national beliefs that motivated Kuwait to offer assistance "loans" to Iraq, drawing the attention to the fact that the Kuwait Government had not given these loans voluntarily, unlike other brothers who presented all kinds of assistance even before Iraq had asked for any.

It has confirmed that if the Kuwaiti "assistance" was submitted in accordance with the principles of the national action, it would have not been registered as debts. It has asserted that to the Kuwaiti Government, these principles are but rhetorical words used to be said in all fora.

In the history of nations and international relations, the daily added, it is commonplace not to consider such aid as loans, giving as an example what happened among the allies states during World War II, even though they belong to different nations.

It has wondered why do the Kuwaiti rulers forget that the joint defence treaty they signed prior to the war calls on the Arabs to cooperate and stand firmly against any foreign danger threatening any Arab country?.

Kuwait Implementing 'Zionist-Imperialist Scheme'

JN2407141490 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has said that Iraq concludes the big reality which obviously appears day after day namely that the rulers of Kuwait deliberately premeditate to follow serious policies contrary to Iraq and the Arab nation interests.

The daily said that this deviative policy stand counter to requirements of the Arab nation security, thus the rulers of Kuwait are now implementing the Zionist-imperialist scheme against Iraq.

These rulers want to weaken Iraq and its capability for achieving the Zionist scheme aimed at undermining Iraq's sovereignty and independence, at the same time they are implementing an American policy.

It is well-known that all the Arabs had suffered from the Iranian aggressiveness during Khomeyni rule, this aggressiveness did not aim at Iraq only, but all Arabs and the Arab Gulf states in particular.

Paper Details Kuwait's 'Hostile Measures'

JN2407141190 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—The English language BAGHDAD OBSERVER said Iraqi TV on Monday evening released President Saddam Husayn's talk with the mayors of al-Qadisiyah and al-Muthanna during a visit he paid to the two provinces on July 2.

When the two mayors put forward certain demands concerning some public services and development projects, the president replied that it was difficult for the government to meet these demands because of financial difficulties arising from the drop in oil prices. Then President Husayn bitterly referred of oil, or even higher officials, in some Arab countries. [sentence as received] He wondered whether this plan was related to the American-Israeli anti-Iraq conspiracy.

However, the president promised that the facts would be made open to the Iraqi public.

This clearly shows that before the president's speech of July 17, Iraq had long been suffering the Kuwaiti hostile measures but without bringing the issue out into the open in the hope that the officials there would realize the dangers of their policy and back down on their measures. As early as 1981, Iraq has been addressing the issue of Kuwait's stealing of oil from the reserves of the Iraqi southern oilfield of al-Rumaylah. Many letters and envoys were sent from Iraq to the Kuwaiti officials to stop their hostile measures.

However, the Kuwaiti Government not only continued along this line but also escalated its anti-Iraq policy by glutting world oil markets with oil to bring down its prices, thus seeking to hurt Iraq and undermine its economy.

Hence after these officials persisted in their hostile line, the Iraqi Government had to bring the issue out into the open on July 17 in what may be called a sudden burst of anger.

Some observers commented on this burst of anger as something incompatible with what Iraq had sought to achieve in the last Arab summit, i.e. Arab solidarity. Maybe. But an Arab solidarity that is based on deceit and lies, would eventually collapse in the face of a slight unfavourable gust of wind. Iraq rather seeks an Arab solidarity which is based on frankness, openness and true sisterly relations that takes into consideration the interests of the Arab parties concerned besides those of the Arab nation as a whole.

Envoy Leaves for Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania

JN2407120590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and minister of transporation and communications, left Baghdad this morning on a tour that will also include Tunisia and Mauritania.

INA has learned that during the tour President Saddam Husayn's envoy will convey messages from his excellency to his brothers the Moroccan monarch His Majesty King Hassan II, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, as well as President Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine.

INA has also learned that these meessages are related to the brotherly relations between Iraq and these fraternal Arab countries and to developments in the region.

Soviet Defense Industry Minister Holds Talks

JN2307134590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, today met with Boris Mikhaylovich Belousov, USSR minister of defense industry, and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting the two sides reviewed aspects of industrial cooperation between the two countries and ways to develop this cooperation in the future.

Husayn Kamil explained his ministry's plan concerning existing industry and establishing new industries. He noted the implementation of a number of projects in the fields of petrochemical, steel, copper, and aluminum industry as well as the production equipment industry. Kamil affirmed that extensive cooperation between the two countries will continue in the future, particularly in the field of promotion research. The Soviet minister expressed his confidence in the large-scale opportunities for industrial cooperation.

Earlier today official talks began on strengthening industrial cooperation between the two countries.

The Soviet minister arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a one-week visit to Iraq.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN2407185890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Boris Mikhaylovich Belousov, minister of defense industry in the Soviet Union.

During the meeting they discussed friendly bilateral relations and means of developing them in various fields.

The meeting was attended by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Afghan Vice President Arrives With Message

JN2007112990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Afghan Vice President 'Abdul Rahim Hatif arrived in Baghdad today on a visit during which he will deliver a message to leader President Saddam Husayn from the Afghan president.

He was received at the airport by Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs, and the Afghan ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With President

JN2107110890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received today Afghan Vice President Abdul Rahim Hatif who conveyed a written message to the leader president from Afghan President Najibullah on bilateral relations and developments in the Afghan issue.

The meeting was attended by Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, and the Afghan ambassador in Baghdad.

Concludes Visit 23 Jul

JN2307120990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Afghan Vice President 'Abdul Rahim Hatif left Baghdad at noon today concluding a four-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Kurds Endorse Saddam as President for Life

JN2407190890 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] The Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region yesterday held an extraordinary session attended by the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Executive Council members.

INA has learned that during the session, which was devoted to discussing the new draft constitution, the Legislative Council recommended that leader President Saddam Husayn be elected president of Iraq for life.

The Legislative Council's six permanent committees discussed the provisions of the new Iraqi constitution over the past two days and prepared a detailed report on it prior to submitting it for discussion in the Legislative Council.

Red Crescent Delegation Returns From Iran

JN2407194690 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 24, INA—Iraqi Red Crescent's delegation to Iran concluded a three-day visit during which it provided relief aid to recent earthquake victims that hit north western parts of Iran.

Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, chairman of Iraqi Red Crescent Association, told INA that officials of Iranian Red Crescent confirmed to the delegation that none of the Iraqi POW's were among the quake's victims.

He added that Iranian officials expressed to the Iraqi delegation their high appreciation to the humanist aid sent by Iraq to the quake victims.

Soviet Official Arrives; To Discuss Aircraft

TA2407170590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The joint Israeli-U.S.-USSR plans to build an aircraft are beginning to take shape. Vladislav Malkevich, head of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce, arrived in Israel today, and one of the reasons for his visit here is just this project. Mikha'el Gilbo'a, our Russian department correspondent, heard about this from him. [passage omitted]

Building a modern plane for the next decade is a project that has been in the works for the past six months, Malkevich said. The USSR will provide the body of the plane, Israel will supply the navigation systems, and the United States will provide the engine.

As for the issue of the reestablishment of ties between Israel and the USSR, Malkevich said that this is not on the agenda. According to him, economic relations can be maintained without having political relations, as is the case with South Korea.

Malkevich believes it will be easy to tighten the economic relations between the two countries because his impression is that there is great sympathy for the USSR in Israel.

Shamir on German Unity, Relations with USSR

AU2507092890 Hamburg BILD in German 25 Jul 90 p 2

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Hans-Hermann Tiedje and Lothar Loewe in Jerusalem; date not given: "Shamir on Chancellor Kohl; Nothing Is More Successful Than Success"]

[Excerpt] [BILD] Mr. Prime Minister, German unity is close at hand. What are your feelings about it?

[Shamir] We accept the unity of Germany. It is a great achievement of the FRG. We have many reasons to assume that the united Germany will be a strong democracy and the main pillar of the free world. It will preserve the democratic character of Europe and further develop its friendly relations with Israel.

[BILD] Are the relations between the FRG and Israel good today; could they be better?

[Shamir, laughing] The word good knows no bounds.

[BILD] Are there problems?

[Shamir] There are problems with the EC. We would like Germany to exert a stronger influence on the EC's relations with Israel.

[BILD] What is your opinion of Chancellor Kohl today?

[Shamir] Nothing is more successful than success.

[BILD] Looking at the international situation, the developments in Poland, Hungary, Germany, and Gorbachev's policy, especially the opportunity for the Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel now, how do you assess this?

[Shamir] You know that Israel is a small country. Therefore, I would not like to assess Soviet world policies. For us it is important how things concerning Israel have changed. The most important thing is the change in the Soviet emigration policy, especially Jewish emigration to Israel. We are very happy about this change. It is a historic event for us, the dimension of which we will realize in the future, as I hope. We are grateful to the Soviet Union for this policy.

[BILD] Do you believe that diplomatic relations might again be established between the USSR and Israel in a not too distant future?

[Shamir] Except for the question of emigration, we cannot perceive any conciliatory points. We are a long way away from establishing diplomatic relations. Meanwhile, we have established relations with almost all former communist East European countries. For example, Poland, the CSFR, Bulgaria, and Hungary. We do not see any progress in achieving normal diplomatic relations with the Soviets. This may be connected with the pressure from the Arabs. However, the Soviet Union is a big country, and the Soviet Union should actually be directly responsible for making such a decision. I do not believe that the Arab states can force the Soviet Union to take a certain position.

[BILD] How do you integrate the large number of emigrants into Israel? The people need work, accommodation....

[Shamir] The problems are enormous and nobody here knows at present how to cope with them. However, we will cope with them because we have to. Top priority is given to this topic in our country. And this is also accepted by all political parties.

[BILD] You are expecting help. From Germany? From other European countries?

[Shamir] We are expecting help from all our friends in the world. This is a very great human and humanitarian task. Therefore, I believe that great countries and great people should support us.

[BILD] You achieved a political settlement with Egypt. Is this not possible with Jordan? Is time not working against Israel? Someday King Husayn will no longer be there—what then?

[Shamir, laughing] Husayn is still a young man.... He is far younger than I am.... I do not believe that time is working against us. A strong and secure Israel is a stabilizing factor in the region.

[BILD] The Iraqi threat—is it only a threatening attitude or is it a current issue?

[Shamir] I do not want to answer this question. We are prepared for every possibility. [passage omitted]

'Grim' Period Foreseen in Ties With U.S.

TA2407134090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Jul 90 p 14

[Commentary by Mordekhay Bassok: "Baker Caught Them With Their Bags Already Packed"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's last-minute decision to postpone the discussions of the special U.S.-Israeli committee on U.S. aid to Israel's 1992 defense budget came in the wake of a previous move by President Bush and Secretary Baker who indefinitely put off a decision on Israel's request for a $400 million loan to absorb Soviet immigrants. Whatever the U.S. reasons may have been, 16 days before the Baker-Levi meeting in Washington it is clear to all in Jerusalem—including Prime Minister Shamir, Finance Minister Moda'i, Construction Minister Sharon, and Ministers Ne'eman and Eytan—that the fate of the $1.8 billion in defense aid and the $400 million loan depends to a large extent on the goods Levi delivers to Washington on 9 August, on his first visit abroad as Israel's foreign minister.

Baker's decision to postpone the meeting of the joint Israeli-U.S. military-economic committee astonished the Israeli Defense and Foreign Ministries. The notice reached Jerusalem very late last Thursday night, when Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri and most members of the Israeli delegation had already packed their bags. The meeting would have been held in Washington today.

The U.S. excuse for the sudden postponement—that the administration had not yet completed its discussions with Congress on the 1992 U.S. defense budget—would have been an excellent one had it reached Jerusalem a month or two weeks ago. But arriving at the last minute looks kind of fishy, after all the Who's Who in Washington had been invited by the Israeli Embassy to a cocktail party with the Israeli delegation. Commenting on the matter last Friday in Washington, Minister Arens said that he very much hoped the postponement did not mean that political pressure was being imposed on Israel. Washington newspapers also noted that the sudden U.S. postponement was certain to be greeted with suspicion in Jerusalem. In Israel's political corridors of power, nobody has yet forgotten that the United States—or President Bush—suspended the granting of a $400 million loan to Israel to build houses for immigrants until Israel made its position on the peace process clear; in other words, until the message David Levi carries from Jerusalem is clarified in 16 days from today.

As far as the loan is concerned, the U.S. position is clear: money is a means of political pressure. After approving the loan, Congress deducted from it as interest the money Levi—in his capacity as construction and housing minister—gave the settlers to purchase the hospice of the Greek Orthodox community in the Christian Quarter in Jerusalem's Old City.

Are we on the brink of U.S. economic-political pressure on Israel? Have Bush and Baker decided to use the stick against us as if in passing, without making any declarations about it, without threatening, without informing the U.S. public and the media?

The three constraints ministers have done very well for themselves in Shamir's narrow right-wing government. If we omit their dream about the premiership, David Levi, Yitzhaq Moda'i, and Ari'el Sharon have been fully satisfied. Foreign minister, finance minister, construction and housing minister in charge of immigrant absorption and of providing houses to the homeless—what else do they need? The Americans see, hear, and understand everything. It may very well be that once they digested the meaning of the changes in Jerusalem they decided to get at this government through the constraints ministers. Would Levi be prepared to jeopardize U.S.-Israeli relations while he is foreign minister? Would Moda'i and Sharon be ready to give up $2.2 billion or even a share of this enormous sum and their dreamed seat of power because some deportee or inhabitant of the territories who has property in East Jerusalem is included in the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel in Cairo? No doubt, things look rather different when one sits in a big, comfortable seat and looks out from a good position inside. To wit, look what the Labor Party has been going through since it lost its seats of power.

The United States has not been able to balance its budget. President Bush has only recently been forced to renege on an explicit promise he made during his election campaign not to raise taxes under any circumstances whatsoever. At the same time, the changes in East Europe have persuaded even the staunchest hawks on Capitol Hill that the time has come to cut the U.S. defense budget significantly. Hence, Baker has a good excuse to slash military aid to Israel which in recent years amounted to $1.8 billion. (The United States gives Israel another $1.2 billion in civilian aid every year.) This past year there have been numerous calls in the United States to cut aid to Israel, and that of Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican minority leader, was only one of them.

Washington will yet send Israel many signals before Levi's arrival. The Bush-Baker administration is quite good when it comes to sending signals. In two weeks Israel will know very well, from its own sources too, what the climate in Washington will be upon Levi's arrival. The big question is: Will the constraints ministers persist in their objection to deportees and inhabitants of East Jerusalem, or will U.S. money and the seats in Shamir's government persuade them to join the Likud's "doves" in the previous government (Moshe Arens, Ehud Olmert, Dan Meridor, David Magen, and Moshe Qatzav)?

Bush and Baker have had enough of Shamir, and the Americans have made this abundantly clear to Israel. In view of the fact that although Arens formulated the question and the clarification sought from Israel together with Baker but then failed to fight for them in the Israeli cabinet, Washington would have liked to see someone else taking the foreign minister's seat in Jerusalem.

The Americans are not naive. They have a very large embassy in Tel Aviv, and are thoroughly familiar with the goings-on in Israeli politics. They know more about David Levi than he knows about himself, and they are getting ready for his visit hoping that something will come out of it, or else the state of Israeli-U.S. relations will change. Things would then look rather grim for the United States, and for Israel in particular. The Americans are not naive; they know that David Levi does not exist in a vacuum. They know that he has a very tough prime minister breathing down his neck, a man who is on the verge of retirement and who is not prepared to concede even one inch of Eretz Yisra'el. They know that Levi has to deal with the Likud Central Committee, and that in the Knesset he has to deal with Binyamin Ze'ev Begin, 'Uzi Landau, Mikha'el Eytan, and a few other vociferous muscle men. They know that he has to deal with Tzomet and Tehiya in the government, and with more violent and brutal men, the likes of Kahana and Ze'evi, outside it.

The Americans have hopes for Levi, but limited ones. That is why Baker would have liked to hold another meeting with the new Israeli foreign minister in Paris. Levi wanted to get all the attention and respect due him—and mainly all the time necessary—which is why they will meet in Washington. Perhaps there, in the U.S. capital, Levi will yet have an opportunity to hold other important political meetings.

Levi's political "credo" will be far clearer after his meeting with the troika (the three European foreign ministers who take turns leading the EC's foreign policy). So far, he has not been very outspoken on the continuation of the peace process and initiative. From the little he has said it emerges that he first wants to reach an understanding with the Americans about the end result of the peace process with Jordan and the Palestinians regarding our eastern border. He believes that there is more understanding between Washington and Israel concerning the final solution, because both sides object to a Palestinian state and because they both prefer to have Jordan as a state on Israel's eastern border.

The foreign minister believes that if he attains an official and written understanding with Washington about the final settlement it will be easier for him to reach an accord with Baker about other points in the process. Then it will also be easier for Israel to give up certain things. [passage omitted]

The United States presumably harbors very little hope about the Baker-Levi meeting, and the secretary of state probably agreed to the meeting nevertheless so that nobody would be able to hold it against him that he did not try to work things out with Levi. On the other hand, Shamir, Levi, and Arens—the current leading troika on foreign and security affairs—are probably praying that the meeting will end without making any waves. In other words, that the "no" Israel will utter to any real step forward in the peace process should be interpreted by the United States as "there is still something to talk about."

Arens Sees Threat of War Higher Than Before

TA2407152590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens presented a disturbing evaluation to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The possibility of a war in the region is now higher than in previous years, he said. He also said that in comparison to the previous time he was defense minister, the IDF [Israel Defense Force] is now facing greater budgetary constraints at a time when the threats have increased and the danger of war is greater.

Arens, both a veteran and new defense minister, provoked some of the committee members. Yosi Sarid: This is the first time I have heard such a senior public figure say such a thing. The committee must hold a succession of debates on that remark. Ya'ir Tzaban complained that it was made as a second thought. Shevah Weiss: This is an important declaration. Arens said that he told Defense Secretary Cheney the very same things when they met last week. Arens said Cheney did not respond to his evaluation. Arens explained that Saddam Husayn's rhetoric might get out of his control. Outside the committee, Arens agreed to speak about his remarks:

[Begin recording] [Arens] Saddam Husayn is a known personality. All of us hear his declarations. One of the biggest armies in the world is under his control. We all know that.

[Israel Television correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir] Are those dangers greater now than when you were defense minister some six years ago?

[Arens] When I was defense minister the previous time, Saddam Husayn and his army were occupied with their war against Iran. At that time, he did not make warlike declarations against Israel. The war against Iran ended, and with that his style apparently changed. [end recording]

Arens gave the committee another disturbing evaluation. He said the defense budget is growing smaller and that the 500 million shekel cut in the overall budget will also affect defense. The defense minister expressed satisfaction with the confirmation of U.S. participation in the funding of the second stage of the Arrow project. He hopes the Americans will also participate in the third stage of the missile's development. The Arrow is a breakthrough on a world scale, Arens told the committee.

UN Protests Injury in Lebanon; IDF Responds

TA2407163990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The UN secretary general and UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] headquarters have submitted a sharp protest over an incident that occurred yesterday in south Lebanon when Norwegian soldiers of the UN force confronted an IDF [Israel Defense Force] unit. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that for the past two weeks Norwegian soldiers have been trying to prevent the IDF from paving a road in the eastern sector of the security zone. Last night UN soldiers blocked IDF bulldozers. An Israeli officer ordered the bulldozers to clear the UN vehicles off the road. A sharp exchange of remarks took place, during which a Norwegian officer was injured in the leg.

The IDF reported that a debriefing indicates that there was no physical contact between the IDF and the Norwegian UNIFIL soldiers.

Egyptian Press Attacks on 'Arafat Assailed

TA2407143590 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Jul 90 p 1

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Egyptian regime's semi-official newspapers yesterday continued their filthy attack on the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership, the PLO, ignoring the PLO's credit in returning Egypt to the Arab fold.

This attack is led by two hireling Egyptian journalists who tend to change their principles and inclinations in the same way that they change their shoes. They are Anis Mansur, close friend of the royal president, Anwar al-Sadat; and AKHBAR AL-YAWM editor in chief Ibrahim Sa'dah, who is one of the staunchest supporters of the normalization process with Israel. He detached Egypt from its Arab environment.

Yesterday, for the third day running, these two unstable journalists continued to collect all of Cairo's garbage and shove it into their nauseating articles. They proceeded to relieve themselves of all the black hatred they harbor against our heroic people and their sacred cause.

Ibrahim Sa'dah launched a harsh attack yesterday in AKHBAR AL- YAWM against brother president Yasir 'Arafat, accusing him of owning billions and claiming that 'Arafat urged the Egyptian president to intercede with the U.S. Administration to resume the dialogue with the PLO.

Sa'dah also attacked Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, charging him with supporting the PLO during the Arab League ministerial meeting held in Tunis last Tuesday.

As for Anis Mansur, who is known for his "pyramidal" enmity toward the Palestinian people and the PLO, he too fulfilled his role in this Egyptian propaganda "carnival." He claimed in an article published in AL-AHRAM yesterday that the Palestinian people sold their land to the Israelis and are still doing so!

This empty drum addressed brother president Yasir 'Arafat, asking: Will you have the nerve to set foot in Cairo again? He forgets that it was 'Arafat's arrival in Cairo that extricated Egypt from its Arab isolation. This visit was tantamount to returning Egypt to the Arab fold.

This man attacked the transfer of the Arab League from Tunis to Cairo, claiming that the Egyptians hate the return of the Arab League and would like to dump the League's headquarters into the Nile!

Palestinians Condemn Egyptian Media Treatment

TA2407155890 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 23 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] National and popular institutions and organizations in the occupied territories have condemned the filthy propaganda attacks waged by hired Egyptian pens against the PLO and the Palestinian people's cause. A statement issued yesterday evening by these institutions stressed that what the Egyptian newspapers are publishing harms the dignity, pride, and nobility of our Palestinian people. This is something to which one can in no way remain silent. The statement emphasized that Anis Mansur and Ibrahim Sa'dah are continuing to spread their venom like snakes against our Palestinian people within earshot and eyesight of the Egyptian regime, which should not have permitted them to continue with this rancorous campaign.

The statement said that this unjust campaign coincides with the attempted genocide to which the Palestinian people, inside and outside the territories, are being subjected and which aim to exterminate their material and moral existence.

The statement added that if Anwar al-Sadat used Anis Mansur as a loudspeaker to utter his abuse against the Arab nation during the rift between Egypt and the Arabs, what is President Mubarak seeking this time when he allows this hired journalist to utter his abuse against the PLO, which owns the major credit for bringing Egypt back to the Arab and Islamic fold.

The statement said that those who claim to be concerned about Arab solidarity should respect this inclination and not harm it.

The statement asked: Has Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement taken place at the expense of the PLO and the Palestinian people's cause, and is this simultaneity between the al-Asad-Mubarak meeting and the media attacks on the PLO a mere coincidence? The statement said that it is an irony of fate that this filthy campaign coincides with the anniversary of the glorious July revolution, which supported the Palestinian people and laid down the foundations of Arab solidarity.

The statement warned of the danger of continuing this campaign against the Palestinian people and the grave adverse effects that it might generate in the sphere of Arab solidarity. The statement called on the Egyptian Government to put an end to this propaganda comedy which serves neither Egypt nor its people, but the Arab nation's enemies. The statement concluded that the Palestinian people march behind their legitimate and historic leadership and will repulse all efforts aimed at harming this leadership.

In a related development, intense indignation prevailed among the residents in the occupied territories toward the poisoned media campaign against the PLO. The residents affirmed their rallying around the PLO in the face of all conspiracies.

Officers Discuss 'Drop' in Gaza Strip Violence

TA2407131590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jul 90 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Reports on the intifadah and the subject "The Intifadah—Where To" were discussed at a closed, secret seminar held yesterday at the Avia Hotel in Savyon, in which all staff officers of the Civil Administration, headed by Brigadier General Arye Ramot, participated.

It has been learned that Gen. Ramot, head of the Civil Administration, and all his staff officers agree that there has been a drop in violence in the Gaza Strip, but at the same time they believe it is "a false calm" and that events such as the murder of the seven workers in Rishon Leziyyon and the serious rioting in the Jabalyah refugee camp several weeks ago might heat things up again.

Gen. Ramot said: There has been a drop in violence, but at the same time there is no doubt that it is a false calm; if there are incidents similar to those in Rishon Leziyyon and Jabalyah, the wave of violence will erupt once again.

Gen. Ramot opened the seminar with a report on the Civil Administration's activities, such as in investments, alleviating conditions for the inhabitants, and plans for the future. One of the speakers was Lieutenant Colonel David Hakham, Arab affairs adviser to the Civil Administration. He reviewed the various organizations operating in the Gaza Strip. According to Col. Hakham, "Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is becoming stronger and is breathing down Fatah's neck."

Col. Hakham added that similar developments can be seen in Lebanon, where Hizballah is trying to control locations held by other organizations. Col. Hakham explained the changes occurring among the local population and said there was a return to religion. Concern was voiced about the strengthening of the Islamic movements in the Gaza Strip.

The seminar also heard reports on fatalities in the Strip and the treatment of casualties.

The staff officers complained about the various organizations active in the Gaza Strip, such as the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] and UNICEF. The officers complained about confrontations and that their work was being affected by the activities of these organizations.

Gen. Ramot told the participants that he is aware of the problem. He also informed them of plans and policy lines on the activities of UNRWA and other organizations operating in the Gaza Strip. At the same time, according to sources who participated in the seminar, the officers agreed that UNRWA and the other organizations cannot be ousted from the Gaza Strip. They invest millions of dollars in establishing projects for the Gazans, and the view is that the organizations cannot be prevented from being active there.

The participants were also told of plans for the Gaza Strip's future and were given a report on the situation prior to the intifadah's fourth year.

Lieutenant Colonel Sami Mutzafi, governor of Gaza, reported on the situation within his jurisdiction. Gen. Ramot refused last night to discuss what was said at the closed seminar. He said it was a secret meeting closed to the media.

Update on Incidents in Territories 23 Jul

TA2407111490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 90 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpts] Two Palestinians were slain by masked assailants in the territories yesterday, and a shot was fired at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lookout post in Nabulus.

Near Tulkarm, troops and police mounted searches for an Israeli Arab kidnapped by masked youths over the weekend near the village of 'Attilo.

In Qalqilyah, Fadil 'Anturi, 26, was bludgeoned to death in the latest of a series of attacks on townspeople suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

A woman accused of "collaboration" was severely beaten at the village of Dayr Dibwan, near Ramallah, Palestinians said. Nawwal Awabda, 24, was hospitalized in Ramallah.

In the Gaza Strip, a Rafah man was hanged near his home in the town's Shabura refugee camp in what appeared to be another "collaborator" killing, Palestinian sources said. A police spokesman said an investigation team was to visit the man's house last night. [passage omitted]

In Nabulus, a shot was fired at an IDF lookout post on a building overlooking the city's central square, military and Palestinian sources said. There were no casualties, and soldiers returned fire and searched the area. It was the seventh reported shooting at a military lookout post in the city since April of last year.

Near Tulkarm, troops and police continued their search for Nizar Daka, an Israeli Arab kidnapped by masked youths Saturday night. Palestinians reported IDF checkpoints near 'Illar, 'Attil and Zayta, and said soldiers were seen combing hillsides for the missing man, a resident of Yamma in the Triangle. His car was found near the West Bank village of Sa'idah, Palestinians said. Security sources attributed the kidnapping to a family feud.

In Halhul, the IDF sealed the homes of Hatim and Muhammad Milhim, arrested on suspicion of belonging to a group of youths who attacked an Israeli car on June 10, injuring a woman passenger. After the car's driver left the vehicle to pursue stone-throwers, the youths closed in on the car, pelting it with large rocks which smashed its windows and injured the passenger. The woman was given shelter by a local shopkeeper until she was rescued by troops. [passage omitted]

The military court in Gaza sentenced 'Abb-al-Rahman Gharabli to 19 years' imprisonment, with 11 years suspended, after he led a group of some 100 Gaza residents who threw about 40 petrol bombs at IDF forces during the beginning of the intifada, in December 1987, the IDF said. Reports said the group took control of Beit Hanun for two days.

Heroin Dealers Arrested; Said Treated Leniently

TA2107051790

[Editorial report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 18 July reports that "some 40 suspected heroin dealers were rounded up last night in Petah Tiqva, Netanya, Rosh Ha'ayin, Kafr Qasim, Jaljuliya, and other locations in a wide-ranging police operation. Our correspondent Hanan Peri reports that the operation was made possible by operating two undercover agents among the dealers."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 20 July in a report on page 2 by Dan Izenberg reports that "the courts treat drug-trafficking offenders leniently by consistently handing down lighter sentences than countenanced by the law, according to a survey published recently by the War on Drugs Authority.

"'The level of punishment is significantly below the norm; it is below the minimum,' said Ruth El-Roy, who carried out the research and is the coordinator of the authority's Law Enforcement Committee.

"El-Roy examined all 480 drug trafficking cases brought before the district courts of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Beersheba in 1988. She found that, in over 60 percent of the cases, judges handed down sentences of two years or less for crimes where the law provided a maximum sentence of 15 years. (Last year this maximum was increased to 20 years.) The mean sentence was 21 months and the most frequent sentence was 18 months, El-Roy found.

"Suspects received the maximum 15-year sentence in only two of the 480 cases which involved smuggling 1.45 kg of cocaine and 5.32 kg of heroin into the country."

Balance of Payment Surplus Narrows First Quarter

TA2007124390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jul 90 p C5

[Report by Yosi Grinstein]

[Text] Israel posted a $0.4 billion surplus in its balance-of-payments current account, which is similar to the surplus in the same period last year; the surplus in the last quarter of 1989 was $0.9 billion. The data were reported yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The country's net debts dropped by $0.4 billion, following the drop of $1.1 billion in the same period last year and $1 billion in the last quarter of 1989.

The imports stood at $5.2 billion—an increase of 8.2 percent from the parallel quarter; the exports stood at $4.4 billion, constituting a rise of 8.8 percent.

Unilateral transfers stood at $1.1 billion—an increase of 2.5 percent. A 134-percent increase was posted in contributions to local institutions and a 22-percent increase in grants to the Government of Israel.

At the end of March 1990, the balance of net debts stood at $16.3 billion, compared to $17.5 billion at the end of March 1989 and $16.4 billion at the end of December 1989.

The economy's foreign assets stood at $15 billion, an increase of $0.4 billion from the increase of $1.3 billion last year, half of which stemmed from a rise in bank assets.

The gross debt balance stood at $31.4 billion.

Editorial Says U.S. Gulf Presence 'Unjustified'

JN2507082890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jul 90 Second Edition pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Beware of Troubling Gulf Waters!!"]

[Text] The United States and several European circles are once again trying to cause trouble in the Gulf by launching a fabricated escalation campaign through political, diplomatic, and press channels.

The U.S. and West European news agencies and newspapers that are linked to the U.S. imperialist interests and a consortium of multinational companies are disseminating fabricated intelligence reports aimed at escalating tension in the Gulf and along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders to justify the massing of more U.S. fleets in the Gulf area and transform the secondary difference between the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait into a major conflict by internationalizing it and inviting foreign interference.

The danger posed by the unjustified presence of U.S. warships in the region following the Soviet departure was evident right from the beginning when President Saddam Husayn drew attention to it at the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Amman. It is a danger which still stands and constitutes the most serious threat to the Gulf region. This military force did not leave the area following the end of the cold war but rather started to tighten its grip on the region in order to disturb, explode, re-tame, and subjugate it without any reservation whenever it wished to do so.

The Arab move—represented by the positions adopted by the Arab League, Jordan, Egypt, and other Arabs—requires great, profound, and quick Arab efforts to heal the rift and restore normalcy. Parallel to this, the Arabs should exert effort and pressure for the evacuation of foreign fleets, which are using the Iraqi-Kuwaiti difference as an excuse to reinforce their forces and sharpen their weapons under the banner of maintaining peace or championing one party over another.

Claims about an Iraqi troop buildup along the border with Kuwait are false and are circulated for one reason or another to maintain tension and carry out the plan to attack Iraq, restrict its capability, and alienate it from its pioneering pan-Arab role as dictated by its distinctive pan-Arab tasks.

If the United States and the West, with all they represent, are capable of troubling the waters of the Gulf, then it is Iraq's duty to remain vigilant and prevent fishing in Arab waters.

Mudar Badran Addresses House on Unemployment

JN2107165590 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Amman, 21 Jul (PETRA)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that the government is committed to its policy statement and clearly knows its way, sets its policies, determines its measures in every field, and monitors the implementation with care and awareness amid critical circumstances and difficult conditions. He also said that the government, as a whole and individually, is strong and is grateful to those who call its attention to real and not imaginary shortcomings and to realistic rather than illusory incompetence.

He added that the government is serious, sincere, and faithful toward its responsibility and its promises to the leader [King Husayn], the homeland, and the people.

In a statement delivered at today's session of the House of Representatives chaired by Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, the prime minister said that, while working to create confidence in the Jordanian economy and the stability of its investment policy, the government will not allow any sideline battles which may shake that confidence and weaken that stability. He said: The government deals with facts and figures. It will work persistently every day, until the last day, with the guidance of the royal letter of designation, its policy statement, and its pledges to the House of Representatives.

He said: The government has listened very carefully to the speeches made by the brother deputies on the unemployment problem. It shares most of their opinions, observations, and special recommendations, which agree with the government's strategy as outlined in the speech by the labor minister in which he explained the points referred to on various occasions in the past by the government. However, it is necessary to repeat them here because of the reactions of certain speakers and because they are connected to the subject. Badran stressed that in view of its economic and social nature, the unemployment phenomenon cannot be resolved by ready-made prescriptions, administrative decisions, or temporary remedies which might stop the pain for a while but will make the disease incurable in the long run.

He said: The government is only five months old. This period of time can in no way be used as a yardstick to measure the government's accomplishments in the field of fighting unemployment—the phenomenon which began worsening in the mid-1980's and continued year after year without being addressed by serious, successful measures.

He said this important issue needs policies and programs which this government has adopted and is working to implement. He added: These policies and programs need the support of your esteemed House and the private- and public-sector institutions for a sufficient period of time so that the economic structure can grow and create further job opportunities and absorb the additional work force.

Badran added: By all scientific standards, this government has not been in power long enough to deal with the unemployment phenomenon and find a suitable remedy for it. The fact that the time aspect as well as the economic and social dimension of the subject are unclear makes it very difficult for us to reach the truth and treat the problem accordingly. The government's achievements in the past few months—represented by the stabilization of the dinar's exchange rate, the establishment of the adjustment program, a reduction in the budget deficit, and the restoration of confidence in the Jordanian economy—constitute the real, sound, and long-term solution to unemployment because only the national economy's growth and expansion will absorb an additional national work force. Signs of the success of the efforts the government has made in the past few months have begun to leave their imprint on the economic structure. It is not a good idea to continue with self-flagellation before sufficient time and objective circumstances exist and before the measures which the government has taken to fight unemployment have matured.

Badran also affirmed that the government's primary concern is to create a balanced equation between attempts to organize the employment of foreign labor and the existence of production difficulties that may lead to a shortage of labor opportunities. Otherwise we will overcome one problem by creating a greater one. The government is carefully following this subject, which is very sensitive from the political, administrative, and production point of view. The Jordanian worker has the right to work and enjoy a proper income, and that production should also continue effectively in order to provide new labor opportunities. He added that this subject should be tackled cautiously and should not be dealt with through temporary administrative measures, even through they may stem from justified and real enthusiasm because the size and dangers of the current unemployment are great. He said that the government will seriously and realistically implement a gradual replacement of foreign laborers with Jordanian nationals, as stated in the labor minister's speech.

Badran added that the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Social Development, the Civil Service Commission, and the employment offices and auxiliary institutions constitute a single task force for the unemployment problem, as stated by one of the representatives. He also said that there should not be an impression that the task force will only be used in emergency cases because this would be underestimating the seriousness of the unemployment issue and would be a departure from its nature and its need for the participation of many institutions from both the public and private sectors.

He also said that the schedule of government job distribution is an actual translation of the government's administrative and financial policy and that providing jobs, in the view of the administration scientists, is based on the actual need of the institutions and their financial capability. He added: Since the general budget approved by your esteemed House does not include any allocations for the creation of new jobs, as clearly stated by the minister of finance during discussions on the draft of the general budget, delaying or advancing the issuance of this schedule becomes irrelevant in confronting unemployment.

He also said: Relying on the government to contain unemployment when there is no actual need for an additional administrative apparatus is, in my opinion, and in accordance with administration science, a waste of already scarce public money. This will also enlarge the bureaucracy in a way that will hamper its duties and turn visible unemployment into disguised unemployment. Many developing countries have experienced this and they are trying in vain to overcome it. If we realize that our government bureaucracy is too big and has begun to suffer from weakness, we will sense the extent of the danger that will result from going ahead with enlarging that bureaucracy.

He also said: This government knows well that it will enjoy popular support if it creates 20,000 jobs to absorb the largest part of those who seek employment in the government sector. But out of its national responsibility the government will not seek popularity at the expense of the nation's welfare in the long run. Governing is a trusteeship which we will preserve, regardless of the cost and attacks against us.

Badran: Bank Case Delays Martial Law Abolition

JN2207072390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 90 p 1, 5

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—The total abolition of martial law in the country will be announced when a military court settles cases related to the collapse of the Petra Bank or immediately when Parliament wishes, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Saturday [21 July].

Addressing the Lower House, the prime minister also said no easy solutions could be found to solve the unemployment problem but pledged that his government would be able to tackle the issue with help from Parliament as well as backing from the private and public sectors.

Responding to calls for an immediate abolition of martial law, in force in the country since the 1967 war but frozen since early this year, the prime minister said: "Once the Petra Bank case is over, martial law would be totally abolished." However, he said, it could be lifted now if Parliament so desired. "The government is committed to your assembly if it decided to abolish martial law now," he told the House.

The prime minister said the martial law authorities had completed investigations into the Petra Bank affair, and were ready to file formal charges.

Badran did not give any time frame for completion of the Petra Bank cases, and there was no indication from any source Saturday on the nature of the cases or the people expected to be charged.

According to Badran, the main reason for the delay in abolishing martial law was the fact that the Petra Bank case was referred to the martial law authorities by former Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Abolition of martial law in six months' time was one of the pledges made by Badran in his policy statement to the Lower House in January. The government has forwarded substitute laws to plug in the loopholes expected to be left by the move. The new legislation is expected to be debated on the floor soon.

However, a Royal Decree issued two weeks ago revoked the jurisdiction of martial law courts in almost all areas as a prelude to the expected total abolition. [passage omitted]

USSR Parliamentarians on Emigration, Peace

JN2407185290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Members of the USSR parliamentary delegation, who today concluded a three-day visit to Jordan, held a press conference in which they spoke about Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and about their talks with a number of Jordanian officials. More details in the following report:

[Begin recording from unidentified reporter] Members of the USSR delegation said that the Soviet position on the emigration of Soviet Jews is clear and definitive: It rejects settling these emigres in the occupied Arab territories because this is a violation of human rights. They said that this issue will be discussed by the Soviet parliamentary committee dealing with international relations. They stressed that there was no Soviet decision to permit the emigration and settlement of Soviet Jews into the occupied Arab territories, but there was a decision to allow all Soviet citizens to leave freely for any place they wished to settle in. This, however, should not be at the expense of any other citizen in any part of the world. They pointed out that travel to Israel by Soviet Jews increased after the United States closed its doors to immigration. They said that Soviet regulations governing the emigration process are being drawn up. These will allow the emigres to retain their Soviet nationality and their right to return to their country at any time.

The members of the delegation described their talks in Jordan and the other Arab countries they visited as positive and characterized by an atmosphere of mutual understanding. The talks dealt with the restructuring process in the USSR, the situation in the Middle East, the Palestine question, and the emigration of Soviet Jews. The members of the delegation agreed that the situation in the Middle East is not improving as a result of the current world changes; on the contrary, it is getting worse, especially concerning the Palestine question. They said that emigration was the most important issue in their talks in the Arab countries they visited, especially Jordan. They added that they noted a particular concern in Jordan about restructuring in the USSR.

The members of the delegation said there was also interest in the economic situation in the Arab world. They stressed that the Arab countries possess formidable economic capabilities, adding that economic ties between the USSR and the Arab world as well as those of culture and tourism can be promoted. [end recording]

Paper Reacts to Israeli Commander's Threat

JN2207082490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jul 90 First Edition p 14

["Spotlight" column by Ibrahim al-'Absi: "Jordan Is Not an Easy Morsel for Imperialists and Zionists."]

[Text] The threat made by Zionist General Avraham Bin-Nun, commander of the Israeli Air Force, is absolutely not invoked by "the enhancing military cooperation between Jordan and Iraq," as claimed by this bloody general who aspires to have a name in the list of "honorary bloodiness" of Israeli generals. This threat is not the first nor will it be the last. Jordan has been subjected to almost daily Zionist threats for a long time on very flimsy pretexts.

The essence of these threats has to do with Jordan's stance, which up to now has rejected all bilateral solutions that were proposed by Zionists. These threats, moreover, are related to the Zionists' plans which view Jordan as a "suitable place" into which they can cast 1.5 million Palestinians in order to displace them with the new Zionist immigrants, especially since Zionists think that Jordan is the weakest link in the region, as some Israeli generals put it. Therefore, Bin-Nun's accusations—"the enhancing military cooperation between Jordan and Iraq" and that "Jordan is playing with fire"—on the basis of which he launched threats against Jordan, are sheer nonsense and a cover-up to carry out a new bloody chapter in the region at Jordan's expense. I wonder why the United States connives in these unequivocal, brazen threats against a sovereign state which has not made any threat to Israel and, at the same time, leaves no stone unturned over the Iraqi president's statements in which he merely warned the Zionists not to contemplate an aggression on Iraq or any other Arab country?

Why does the imperialist Western media apparatus mobilize all its efforts against President Saddam's statements, by which he only intended to fend off Zionist aggression on his country before this aggression actually takes place, and not even note the threat to Jordan made public by Israeli Air Force Commander Bin-Nun?

At any rate, this imperialist U.S.-Zionist collusion is not unusual. Imperialist hostility toward Arabs is an agreed-on issue. What is new, however, is that we want to tell the bloody generals in the Zionist entity and the White House imperialists that Jordan will not be an easy morsel. Jordan has a people who are willing to engage in a do-or-die battle with Zionist and imperialist forces. If Jordanian youth are armed and placed against the schemes of those Zionists and imperialists, they can "reshuffle" cards and turn hostile schemes upside down.

Columnist Denounces Egyptian Press 'Hirelings'

JN2307102090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jul 90 Second Edition p 14

["Spotlight" column by Ibrahim al-'Absi: "Stop the Unjust Campaign Against the Palestinian People"]

[Text] Instead of introductions, we begin by stating that we are severely pained by all the terrorism practiced by some hireling pens in Arab Egypt against the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

We are even more pained that Egypt has allowed some writers known for their U.S. and Israeli connections to launch an unjust, fierce, and rancorous campaign against the Palestinian people with or without proper motivation at a time when these people have over the past three years been exposed to the ugliest fascist onslaught in human history and when their blood continues to be shed by the Zionist fascists. Acting as if this shed blood were not enough to quench their thirst, the grudge-bearers, hirelings, and opponents of the Palestinian people set out to practice the ugliest forms of coercion and both intellectual and journalistic terrorism against these people.

We have too high an opinion of Arab Egypt and the great people of Egypt, who have sacrificed for the sake of Arab causes—headed by the Palestine question—to expect them to allow a handful of malicious journalists to distort the militant, pan-Arab links between the Egyptian people and Palestine. Whenever 'Arafat or any other Palestinian leader criticize U.S. collusion with or support for Israel, these pens immediately give vent to their grudge against 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders in a manner unprecedented in our Arab press.

Acting as if 'Arafat and other Palestinian leaders were defenseless, these hirelings suddenly unleashed a harmful, synchronized, preplanned, and consistent onslaught in which roles were distributed the same way as commissions are. Ibrahim Sa'dah, leader of these unfair, rancorous, and hireling campaigns, has a well-known attitude toward the Palestinian people, the Palestine question, and the PLO. He has not used his malicious pen against the imperialists and Zionists the way he has against the Palestinians. Anis Mansur, Samir Rajab, and others among the "strugglers" of the Camp David press are playing the same spiteful and hireling role.

We do not only denounce but also strongly condemn and call for a halt to this campaign because it is obvious even to the blind that it serves no one but U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and the Palestinian people's enemies. We warn against persisting in this terrorism because the Palestinian wall is part of the Arab wall and the latter is too high to be climbed by opportunists and hirelings.

Man Detained After Heroin Seized at Airport

JN2507062290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Police at Queen Alia International Airport seized 2.1 kilogrammes of heroin hidden in a secret part of a handbag carried by a non-Jordanian Arab about to board a plane for Montreal.

Colonel 'Adnan al-Shamayilah, director of the airport's security unit, said the police used sniffing dogs as it would have been more difficult to find the illicit merchandise otherwise.

"The man whose identity was not revealed, had been under police suspicion ever since he had crossed into Jordan from Syria at al-Ramtha border post and had been under constant police surveillance over the past week," al-Shamayilah said.

He said that police moved in to detain the man only after he had completed all formalities to board the plane. "The man is now being interrogated," al-Shamayilah added.

Last May airborne forces and speedboats seized 690 kilogrammes of hashish with a street value of JD 700,000 and arrested an undisclosed number of Jordanians as well as other Arab nationals in two separate operations.

The first was in the waters of the Gulf of Aqaba, where antidrug forces seized 350 kilogrammes of hashish, the second operation took place in the north east of the country near the border with Syria, where the badia police and border patrols seized 340 kilogrammes of hashish of Lebanese origin. At least 10 people were arrested in the second operation.

More than 150 people from Jordan and other Arab states have been arrested in over eight months in what police authorities described as a stepped-up anti-narcotics campaign to stem drug trafficking in the Kingdom.

Security Department Notes Increase in Crime

JN2207072790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—There has been a noticeable increase in the volume of crime committed in Jordan over the past six months as compared with the previous year, but the problem has not reached the dangerous line and can be contained, according to Public Security Department (PSD) Director Fadil 'Ali Fuhayd.

Fuhayd gave no figures about the total number of crimes committed in the country, but earlier statistics put the number at around 18,000.

"Since the last month of 1989 the PSD started facing additional burdens, heavier than ever before following the beginning of the democratisation process in the country," Fuhayd said.

He said that police in different areas reported acts of anarchy, irresponsibility and even sabotage, damage to other people's property and attack on individuals.

"The PSD, of course, has the right and the authority to intervene and stop such actions so that the process of democratisation can go ahead unhindered, Fuhayd added.

"The PSD does not allow violations of the law and cannot condone acts of 'intellectual terrorism' be imposed by certain groups on others as has happened with some who took advantage of democracy."

He attributed the increase in crimes to growing unemployment, rise in prices, the deteriorating purchasing power of the Jordanian dinar, the ongoing socio-economic change in society, difficult economic conditions prevailing in the Kingdom and the misinterpretation of the concept of democratisation among Jordanians.

Last year the PSD blamed 1,000 crimes committed in Jordan on non-Jordanian workers employed in the country who, at the time totalled 226,754.

Fuhayd blamed the non-Jordanian and the Jordanian students studying abroad for the increase in drug taking in the Kingdom.

He said that the Kingdom is not a major consumer or producer of drugs, but its territory is being used to transport the drugs to neighbouring states.

"The PSD is intensifying its cooperation with European countries like Germany and France and with Arab countries at large to stem the danger of drug trafficking in the Arab area," Fuhayd said in his statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that one in every 10,000 people in the country is regarded to be a drug addict.

Concerned about this, Fuhyad added, the PSD is bolstering operations of the Badiyah and Border Police Forces.

These forces, he said, are deployed along the Jordanian-Syrian, Jordanian-Iraq and Jordanian-Saudi borders as well as the al-'Aqabah and Wadi Araba regions.

In reply to a question about fire arms possessed by citizens, Fuhayd said that the PSD had lately eased restrictions and made it easier for people to own weapons, but these have to be licenced in accordance with regulations.

These licences, he said, are given to citizens to possess but not to carry and use their weapons as they choose.

The PSD earlier this month announced a sharp rise in the number of thefts and robberies in the Kingdom in the first five months of 1990, registering 19.5 per cent increase over the same period of 1989.

According to the PSD, a total of 262 cars were reported stolen in the first five months of 1990 as compared to 176 in the same period of 1989.

'Awn Asks Syrians for Political Guarantees

NC2407113690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] General 'Awn is still pursuing a policy of hesitation and procrastination in giving his answer to the government statement.

In an evasive move yesterday, he sent an indirect message to Syrian officials inquiring about the political and personal guarantees he might be given should he accept the government statement and the solution plan. This is according to AL-SAFIR today.

It is noteworthy that 'Awn did not express a decisive stand on the government statement at his third meeting last night with Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi.

Ja'ja' on Possible Participation in Government

NC2407125990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpts] AL-NAHAR published an interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' today.

In the interview, Ja'ja' asserted that General 'Awn is finished and that legitimacy is coming [to East Beirut] by Christmas to attain all its property and to extend its authority to wherever it can throughout the Lebanese territories. [passage omitted]

[In a later, similar report at 0845 GMT on 24 July, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon adds: "Ja'ja' responded to a charge that he will not disband the Lebanese Forces even if we reached a political solution. He said: This charge is malicious and is regarded as jumping to conclusions and bypassing reality. This is not acceptable in politics or in life."

[The report also adds, "Ja'ja' was asked if he would accept an invitation to participate in the government. He asserted he would participate, noting that the best framework for dialogue is the Council of Ministers, where the results would be positive. He remarked that the Lebanese Forces know what they want and that their thought is very clear. ["Commenting on the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, he expressed regret that man in Lebanon should die by various reasons, and expressed doubt that the Iqlim al-Tuffah incidents will affect the government's program."]

Further on Ja'ja' Remarks

NC2507094990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' believes that the dispute between General 'Awn and the legitimate government is over status. In an interview with AL-NAHAR, Dr. Ja'ja' said: We are not against any proposal, even the latest government program, despite the questions that may arise about it and the language it used. Dr. Ja'ja' asked: Why did the program address the Lebanese Forces and forget Hizballah, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal Movement, and the other militias? However, he added, this is not the right time for trivial issues and personal considerations.

Dr. Ja'ja' added: We gave our consent directly and unambiguously so that a way out of the current situation could be found. We need to reach a minimum acceptable level of conscientiousness instead of preoccupying ourselves with side issues in the al-Ta'if agreement, he said.

Dr. Ja'ja' remarked that the current dispute is over political positions. Everyone has the right to seek such positions, provided that this is not done at the expense of the people, he stressed.

The Lebanese Forces commander pointed out that Gen. 'Awn is willing to go along with Damascus on an agreement far worse than al-Ta'if, provided that Syrians secure a more advantageous position for him than that provided by the al-Ta'if agreement.

Dr. Ja'ja' emphasized that no one can dictate the Lebanese Forces. In this context he said: They tell us that we can join the government if we do this or that. We say to them that joining the government is not so important to us that we would allow people to dictate to us. Joining the government and staying in power one way or another is a basic goal of Gen. 'Awn. Therefore, he added, they are dictating to him. We represent the opposite of this, which is one of our strengths. He remarked that the issue is not a business transaction, adding: I will give what I want to give when I am convinced that I should and I will refuse to give what I do not want to give regardless of whether I participate in the government.

FRC Denies Abduction of ICRC Officials

NC2407151090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] In connection with the hostages issue, Fatah—The Revolutionary Council [FRC] has denied involvement in the abduction of two Swiss officials working for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. Mansur Hamdan, FRC official spokesman, said that Salah Khalaf's remarks to this effect are totally untrue. Hamdan said that the FRC has the right to confront the defamation campaign against it.

Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, had accused the FRC of kidnapping the two Swiss nationals and hiding them in its centers in al-Shuf.

Arab League, PLO Envoys Meet in Lebanon

LD2307195690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The envoy of the Arab Tripartite Committee, Lakhdar Ibrahimi, has held a meeting with brother Shafiq al-Hut, the PLO representative in Lebanon. The general situation in Lebanon, especially the Iqlim al-Tuffah war [between Amal and Hizballah], in which the Palestinian forces are acting as a buffer between the warring parties, was discussed during the meeting.

This is the first time that Ibrahimi has met a PLO official since he started his mission in Lebanon.

Palestinian Officials Comment on Deployment

NC2507053690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel 'Ala', commander of the Palestinian disengagement force in Iqlim al-Tuffah, has said that the force's mission is to disengage the two warring sides. He warned of the possibility of Israeli aggression against the areas where the Palestinians are deployed at any moment. Lt. Col. 'Ala' confirmed that three Palestinians have been killed and 18 wounded since the Palestinian deployment began.

In another development, Fatah Movement political official Zayd Wahbah has said that his movement is determined to end the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah once and for all and that it is exerting pressure on Hizballah to force it to withdraw from Jarju' so that the Palestinian deployment process can be completed.

AFP cited Wahbah as saying that the main means of pressure the movement is using is cutting Hizballah's supply lines, except for those under Israeli control.

According to Wahbah, only Fatah is capable of confronting the joint U.S.-Israeli scheme against south Lebanon. He criticized the Arab Tripartite Committee, saying that it has forgotten south Lebanon. This means that the committee is not seeking a solution, he remarked. He expressed his belief that the United States vetoed a role for the Tripartite Committee in the south.

Army Prepares To Enter Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC2507101390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] According to reports circulating in West Beirut, the Army command is continuing contacts with parties concerned in the Iqlim al-Tuffah war to prepare for the entry of two Army battalions into the area to enforce law and order and withdraw the fighters.

Amal Denies Meeting Guards at Headquarters

NC2407114790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] A responsible source in the Amal Movement has denied a report published in AL-SAFIR citing IRNA that Amal representatives visited the Iranian Revolution Guard headquarters in Ba'labakk. The source said that the meeting took place at a hotel and not at the Revolution Guard headquarters and was at the request of the Iranian authorities. He said that the Amal Movement delegation emphasized the principles of a solution it had previously presented to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati. The principles envisage the legitimate government's extending its authority in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Amal Movement also stressed all its declared positions.

Visiting British Parliamentarians Meet Fadlallah

NC2507071390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah yesterday received Robert Adley and Colin Shepherd, members of the visiting British parliamentary delegation. During the 80-minute meeting, a number of Lebanese problems, particularly the latest developments, were discussed.

Following the meeting, MP Adley was asked about the issues they discussed with Sayyid Fadlallah. He said: We discussed Lebanese and Middle Eastern issues. He asserted that the issue of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon was not discussed with Sayyid Fadlallah.

Responding to a question on the issue of Salman Rushdie, Adley said: All Muslims were offended and we fully understand this.

Phalangist Party Leader Departs for Damascus

NC2507054690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah left for Damascus this morning accompanied by his adviser and Phalangist Party Political Bureau member, Dr. Ibrahimi Visha, at the official invitation of the Syrian Government. Minister Sa'adah and Syrian officials will discuss the political situation and developments in Lebanon.

Israeli Officer Threatens Norwegian UN Forces

NC2407190390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] An Israeli officer today visited the command headquarters of the Norwegian UN contingent. He threatened that the UN force in southern Lebanon will be fired upon if it continues to obstruct the building of a military road connecting the Israeli military positions between Kawkaba and Hasbayya.

Fighting, Unrest Continues in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

Israeli Planes Fly Sorties

NC2407112190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over south Lebanon before noon today.

Amal Advances Into Jarju'

NC2407112590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Battles have continued on all combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly the Jarju' axis, since early this morning. Both warring parties launched attacks and counterattacks amid a violent artillery barrage that covered most villages in the region. According to our correspondent in southern Lebanon, artillery rounds fell beyond the combat lines, and shells fell on the Dayr al-Zahrani-al-Nabatiyah highway and at the Zifta-al-Numayriyah juncture. He said that Jarju' and adjacent areas are being subjected to continual bombardment by all types of weapons and that dozens of fires have broken out in the area. He said that the results of the attacks and counterattacks by the Amal and Hizballah fighters are not yet clear.

REUTER reported that the Amal Movement succeeded in advancing 300 meters inside Jarju' and that clashes are continuing inside the town. Our correspondent reported that approximately 30 injured people have been taken to al-Nabatiyah hospitals. REUTER reported that five people were killed and 12 others injured, mostly by exploding landmines.

Israeli Moves Reported

NC2407121690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The Israeli enemy has continued his measures to consecrate his occupation of certain areas in southern Lebanon. According to arrivals from the occupied border strip, the occupation forces are building a military airfield near Tall 'Abbas near Hula. Yesterday, these forces carried out detonations on this site and built a number of fortifications and tunnels.

According to reports from southern Lebanon, Israeli armored vehicles moved on various axes in the occupied border strip. Civilian vehicles are transporting Israeli officers on the Marj 'Uyun-Hasbayya-al-'Ayshiyah Road.

Resistance Checks Israeli Advance

NC2507054390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Certain villages in western al-Biqa' were subjected to bombardment from Israeli positions in Ibil al-Saqiy last night. The bombardment was followed by an attempt by an Israeli armored force consisting of four vehicles and two bulldozers to advance from the al-Ahmadiyah post toward Jabal al-Dahr. The Islamic resistance's artillery confronted the Israeli force. Immediately afterward, the occupation forces bombarded (Humur Qilya) and Zillaya. The Islamic resistance's artillery responded by bombarding Marj 'Uyun and Ibil al-Saqiy plain.

Fighting Enters '10th Day'

NC2507112190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah entered its 10th day today. According to reports from the area, clashes are continuing between the Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters, although with less intensity than yesterday's fierce battles. According to our correspondent, sporadic clashes involving machine guns, rockets, and artillery are concentrated on the Jarju'-'Arab Salim combat line. There are skirmishes on the other combat lines amid reciprocal preparations and military concentrations. According to AFP, nine people were killed and 41 wounded in yesterday's battles, raising the casualty toll over the past 10 days to 86 dead and 280 wounded, in addition to the heavy property damage.

Fighting, Casualties Updated

NC2407175890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] According to the latest reports from the South, clashes are continuing in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly on the Jarju'-'Arab Salim line. Various types of weapons are being used.

The clashes resumed this morning, with the heaviest fighting taking place near Jarju', where both Amal and Hizballah tried to gain more ground. So far, there are no reliable reports on whether there have been any changes in the positions held by the two sides.

The Amal Movement sources claimed that they have gained more ground inside Jarju', but Hizballah sources have denied that they lost any territory in the village.

Most of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages have been subjected to shelling during the fighting. The Dayr al-Zahrani road, al-Nabatiyah, Bayadir Habbush, al-Numayriyah, and Zifta have all come under bombardment.

The continued shelling has taken its tragic toll. According to medical sources in the South, over 325 people have been killed or injured since the fighting erupted.

REUTER cites security sources in the South as saying that five persons were killed and 12 injured in today's clashes. AFP said that five were killed and 24 injured. Massive material losses were also caused by the shelling and the fires.

Relations With Britain Said 'Likely To Improve'

PM2407103890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 90 pp 1, 4

[Zaki Shihab report: "Kaufman's Damascus Mission Marks Start of Relaxation with London; Khaddam Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Positive Signals in Our Relations"]

[Excerpt] London—British-Syrian relations enter a new phase today as British shadow foreign secretary Gerald Kaufman begins a visit to Damascus where he will meet with a number of Syrian officials. Meanwhile, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has confirmed that relations between the two countries are likely to improve after the positive signals received by Damascus from the British capital, adding that the initiative should now come from London, which severed relations in 1986 after the El Al airliner incident.

Khaddam has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Syrian Government has been extremely positive in its cooperation with the Western governments for the release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

The Syrian vice president said that Damascus was in touch with the people connected to the matter with a view to bringing about a happy ending to the plight endured by the hostages and their relatives for years.

Kaufman has stated that the purpose of his Damascus visit, which began yesterday afternoon, is to find out why the release of the hostages was, and continues to be, delayed.

Although Kaufman said that he would not discuss the question of restoring relations between his country and Syria or negotiate on the fate of the hostages, diplomatic sources in London say that Kaufman's visit has the British Foreign Office's blessing. Foreign Office officials held two meetings with Syrian officials in London and New York in the first half of June.

Before leaving Britain, Kaufman met with relatives of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, reporter John McCarthy, and retired pilot Jack Mann who was kidnapped last year.

According to Western reports reaching London, a dispute which occurred between groups responsible for the kidnapping and known for their ties with the so-called Hizballah, resulted in the death of three people whose bodies were discovered last Tuesday in a West Beirut cemetery. The three people killed, the report adds, were Hasan Subayti, Husayn Rizq, and Muhammad 'Atawi, who were shot with pistols at close range, as confirmed by a Lebanese internal security official who rushed to the scene with the coroner.

Although nothing was said in Beirut about the identity of the three victims, the reports say that the postponement of the release of Irish hostage Brian Keenan, held since 1986, might have been a result of that dispute and other complications which arose after the kidnappers were told that Ireland would not pay anything for the release of the hostages. [passage omitted]

Received by Khaddam

JN2407160090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received British shadow foreign minister Gerald Kaufman. The head of the British interests section in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks centered on the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Press on Arab Solidarity, Lebanon, European Role

JN2407093990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today under the headline "Effective Solidarity in the Face of Challenges," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: It is now an axiom to say that the current circumstances of our Arab nation and greater Arab homeland necessitate an effective Arab solidarity that cannot be affected by disputes or differences in opinion between this or that Arab country on any issue that can be settled through dialogue and understanding under the banner of our higher interests. If most, if not all Arabs, have become fully convinced of the need for solidarity and for organizing the ranks of this solidarity, then there are several steps that have been made in this regard—steps that pushed joint Arab action toward new prospects to contribute to the Arab nation's progress.

AL-BA'TH adds: Perhaps Syria, which has always raised the banners of solidarity, searched for an opportunity, and explained the necessity of solidarity and the dangers of abandoning it, has made considerable progress toward closing Arab ranks, rising above differences, and unifying Arab efforts in the face of current challenges. The recent Alexandria meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak, and its results, which were embodied in great understanding and agreement, is an important link in persistent Syrian efforts to consolidate solidarity and to translate it into pan-Arab action in the interest of the Arab nation, its progress, and victory. Based on this, action should be taken to stop the escalation of any Arab differences that might occur here or there and to settle them through dialogue in accordance with what leader al-Asad stressed yesterday when he received the Kuwaiti envoy.

Concluding, the paper says: Rising above differences and surmounting obstacles facing Arab solidarity is the responsibility of all Arabs at all times and under all circumstances. It is a responsibility that no one should be allowed to evade, whatever the justifications.

In a comment in the "Behind the News" column headlined "The Lebanese Accord and the Will for a Solution," TISHRIN says: Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi's talks in Beirut with the Lebanese parties ushered in this time new dimensions to create new prospects for settling the Lebanese crisis, especially after the initiative made by the national accord government in which it called on all parties to rally under the banners of legitimacy in clear support of the al-Ta'if agreement.

The paper adds: We want to stress here that the march of Lebanese accord is proceeding on the solid basis provided by the al-Ta'if agreement, which is a new national charter for all the Lebanese—especially as it is the only agreement that has gained such Lebanese accord, such Arab support, and such international blessing. This must be made use of as much as possible.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: It seems the Ibrahimi's negotiations will be decisive this time, because the legitimate government has given all that it could, and because continued intransigence by some sides ultimately means the rejection of accord among the Lebanese and the continuation of the crisis. Will those sides be allowed to obstruct efforts that have gained so much support?

In further comment under the headline "European Fact-Finding Efforts," TISHRIN says: The efforts of the EC, which has in the past denounced Israel's violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories and which dispatched a permanent envoy to the territories to investigate the conditions of the unarmed citizens and the annihilation operations to which they are exposed, will also fall on deaf ears in Israel this time. Therefore, it would be helpful if the Europeans put their economic and political weight behind a stand that helps peace. Increasing their condemnation of Israel's practices would put U.S. public opinion in the picture about what is taking place, and encourage the U.S. Administration to take positions nearer to justice.

Press Views Israeli Ties With U.S., Priorities

JN2507091590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its comment headlined "Where Do Arabs Stand Toward Zionist Plotting," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: At a time when the enemy is intensifying its immigration activities and plans and implementing them on a large scale, it began to escalate strategic cooperation with the United States, requesting more arms under the slogan of a deterrence force. This will explode the situation in the Middle East. Amid these events, the European troika visited the occupied territories, proposed the reactivation of peace efforts, and warned of the seriousness of the situation. The troika's efforts were faced with Zionist rejection.

AL-BA'TH adds: Signs of an Israeli aggression through imminent military action come in the absence of effective Arab coordination to deter the danger against our nation. We say that we are not beating the drums of war, but are warning against the danger that necessitates pan-Arab action to put an end to the enemy's intransigence and achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

On the same subject, headlined "The Israeli Priority," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: As usual, priority was given to a meeting on military and financial aid over a diplomatic meeting, and priority was also given to the strategic alliance over all other issues in the Israeli-U.S. tug of war over Baker's settlement ideas. It seems that the United States arranges its political calendar in accordance with the requirements of the Israeli policy. The Zionist war minister's meeting with the U.S. secretary of defense falls within this framework. This meeting has put the U.S.-Israeli relations on the right track following a series of customary U.S. maneuvers.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the priorities of Israeli policy are intensifying Jewish emigration, quelling the intifadah, and liquidating its military and political repercussions. This is because, as it has become clear, the United States has no intention to pressure Israel. That is to say if Baker's plan does not actually correspond with Shamir's plan to quell the intifadah.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The conditions and requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region are known to Washington. If it wants to, Washington can put an end to Shamir's plan to settle Jews in the occupied territories to pave the way for the implementation of the "Greater Israel" plan.

On the same subject headlined "Israel's plans," the newspaper TISHRIN emphasizes that Israel does not want peace, and that Shamir's government in particular does not even think of peace. All signs indicate that resorting to a large-scale aggression by the Shamir government has not been ruled out.

Afghanistan

Repatriation of 250,000 Refugees To Begin

BK2407145190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1331 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, July 24 (AFP)—Repatriation of the world's largest refugee population will start from Pakistan on Wednesday [as received] despite opposition by some Afghan resistance leaders, officials in this Balochistan capital said. Of about 3.2 million uprooted people living in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province (NFWP) and southwest Balochistan, the government has devised a three-month pilot project to return 40,000 families, or about 250,000 Afghans, who want to be repatriated. Another two million people have been sheltered in neighbouring Iran, making it the biggest population of displaced people in the world, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

The plan is based on reports of "spontaneous movement" of a sizeable number of Afghans back to their homeland "despite volatile situations and security hazards in Afghanistan," a U.N. document said. The controversial programme has already been rejected by fundamentalist leaders of the Afghan resistance's interim government as an "international conspiracy" to upset their plan to establish an Islamic government, for which they sacrificed more than one million lives in 11 years of war with the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul. The project was prepared in March by the Pakistan Government, the UNHCR and the U.N.-backed Operation Salam (peace) for Afghanistan, led by Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan.

The bulk of the returnees will be from Balochistan where more than 850,000 Afghans are officially registered. Another 100,000 are living there privately, officials said.

To facilitate the cost of transportation and three months subsistence, each family is to receive 3,300 rupees (150 U.S. dollars) and 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of wheat. But they will have to surrender their ration cards, revalidated recently by affixing forgery-proof U.N. stickers.

Officials have designated 10 border departure points, four in Balochistan and six in the NWFP, to be staffed by the government and UNHCR officials. The refugees who opt for repatriation are to be brought to Loralai, Pishin, Muhammed Khel and Dalbandin across Afghanistan's Zabol, Qandahar and Helmand Provinces. Exit points in the NWFP have been set up at Chitral, Khar, Tor Khan, Parachinar, Miram Shah and Wana bordering the Afghan provinces of Kunarha, Nangarhar, Paktia and Paktika.

A U.N report said that in the last few months, a number of families have been leaving Balochistan with belongings "indicating their intention to resettle permanently" in their places of origin. "The pilot project is designed to facilitate and promote the reported spontaneous movements," it said, adding that the return would be voluntary.

U.N. officials estimate 100,000 people returned from Balochistan this year, but resistance sources in Peshawar said 83,000 more people arrived at the North-West Frontier Province from war-ravaged Afghanistan in 1990.

Analysts said conditions in the NWFP are different from lesser-developed Balochistan. While the camps in the rugged terrain of Balochistan do not have electricity or potable water, refugees in the NWFP were better off. They graze cattle in the green countryside and also supplement their income by mingling with the local population.

Besides taking up labour jobs, a sizeable number of refugees were running their own transport or making money by selling carpets and other goods smuggled from Afghanistan. Thousands more have rented private apartments in major urban centres. The refugee commissioner in Peshawar did not expect an immediate response to the programme from those refugees. "For them 150 dollars is just peanuts," an official remarked.

The success of the programme also became doubtful with its rejection by two influential leaders, Rasool Sayyaf Prime Minister and Yunis Khalis Interior Minister of the interim government. They called it a conspiracy to give legitimacy to the "cruel and illegal regime of President Najibullah." Reports said some camp leaders have started collecting refugees' ration cards to prevent their return. Some junior officials of the refugee office feared that the plan would render them jobless and could also obstruct the repatriation, the sources said.

Peshawar's daily THE FRONTIER POST said the government feared violence during the next three months. UNHCR sources said the government would provide security to the staff, and the services of the militia have been acquired.

Hekmatyar: U.S.-USSR Plan 'Doomed to Failure'

PM2407144490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 90 p 9

[Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan report: Hekmatyar Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Afghan Issue Will Be Resolved This Year"]

[Text] Peshawar, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami-Gulbuddin, has said that the arrival in Peshawar of former Afghan diplomats and officials followed an invitation agreed between the Russians and the Americans at the two leaders' recent summit.

The two states agreed on the names of the figures who would lead the government. They are the same people invited by the head of state.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Afghan leader said: "The plan is doomed to failure."

The officials who are being prepared to lead a transitional government cannot even see the refugees in the camps, nor can they leave their hotel in the center of Peshawar.

Everyone knows about the demonstration staged by Afghan students in front of the hotel to protest these officials' arrival. A number of 'ulema assembled in front of the hotel and condemned the officials' arrival.

Hekmatyar emphasized that all the decisions agreed by Moscow and Washington are doomed to failure if the mujahidin are excluded, because none of them is capable of ruling the country.

With regard to the Hezb-e Eslami's present strategy, Hekmatyar said: Our plan is to step up the attacks and pressure on the Kabul government, cut off military supply routes, besiege towns, and work within the Army to encourage it to play a role in resolving the Afghan issue.

With regard to reports that the role of the generals of the abortive 6 March movement has ended, Hekmatyar said: These commanders have contacts with Army commanders but can do nothing without the mujahidin's support and backing.

With regard to the deadlock in the Afghan issue, the Hezb-e Eslami leader said: Although there are battles against the Najibullah government, which is under pressure from the mujahidin, we are facing some problems. Enemies are conspiring against the jihad and it is they who created this situation. They do not want the mujahidin to achieve any military victories. They want the issue to be resolved politically through a U.S.-Russian agreement.

With regard to the nature of these conspiracies, Hekmatyar just said: They are represented by foreign interference in our internal affairs and conspiracies sponsored by Russia, the United States, and other states.

With regard to his expectations about the future situation, Hekmatyar said: The situation cannot continue as it is. The Russians now realize that the conditions for Najibullah's rule no longer exist and that an alternative is needed. This is why there is an inclination to change the party's name and to replace it with a national name, as well as making internal changes in its program, aims and policy so it can compete in the elections.

At their recent summit Russia and the United States agreed to convene the Loya Jirga (the People's National Assembly), but Najibullah announced the formation of a national assembly and openly invited the personalities invited by the head of state to participate in the Loya Jirga recently formed by Najibullah. But Washington told them to wait and not to go to Kabul.

With regard to the reported statement by Peter Tomsen, U.S. envoy to the mujahidin, to a number of Western diplomats concering the suspension of U.S. aid to Hekmatyar's group, the Hezb-e Eslami leader said: For a long time now we have received nothing from Pakistan and we do not need, and we reject, U.S. aid.

With regard to the plan—proposed by Mazari, their official spokesman—to form a coalition among the parties in the elections, Hekmatyar said: There are points of agreement and points of disagreement with regard to the coalition plan. We believe that the question of determining voters' ages and characteristics and the question of having a prime minister as well as a head of state should be left to the election committee or the elected council.

Pakistani Charge Summoned; Accusation Rejected

LD2407162790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned this morning to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a protest from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was handed to him by the director of first political department.

On 1 July, 1990, the charge d'affaires of the embassy of Afghanistan in Islamabad was summoned by the Foreign Ministry of that country and was told that on 21 and 26 June of the current year, the Armed Forces of Afghanistan had fired two Scud missiles on Piwar pass, Kurram agency as a result of which four Afghan refugees were wounded.

Pakistani authorities are warned that the Government of Pakistan cannot confuse the opinion of the people of Pakistan and of the world concerning its open interference and aggression through such slanderous allegations. The Government of Afghanistan fully rejects such groundless accusations and claims, and considers them far from the truth.

Italy Reopens Embassy; Others Urged To Follow

LD2207163790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following about the reopening of the Italian Embassy in Kabul:

Following the reopening of the Embassy of the Republic of France, the Italian Government has implemented its decision to reopen its embassy in Kabul. Recently that country's diplomatic mission arrived in Kabul.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan wholeheartedly welcomes this action and considers at an example of a realistic approach by the Italian Government.

We hope that those countries which closed the activities of their embassies in Kabul on the eve of the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan, taking into account the development in the military-political situation of the country, will assist the people of Afghanistan to achieve a political solution to the existing conflicts in our country and obtain first-hand and reliable information about the development of the political situation in Afghanistan. They should follow the example of the Italy and reopen their political representations in Kabul. Such action will contribute toward ending the bloodshed in Afghanistan, the establishment of peace and stability, the expansion of international understanding and cooperation, and the consolidation of international peace as well as of friendship between Afghanistan and these countries.

Khaliqyar Meets Chahar Delhi District Elders

LD2007093990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0508 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 19, BAKHTAR—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], had a meeting here today with a large number of elders and clergymen of Chahar Dehi District, Kabul Province, reports press office of Prime Ministry of RA.

Several speakers on behalf of the people of Chahar Dehi District assured the prime minister of theri contribution to the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation. They also put forward their local problems in respect of the shortage of drinking water, health clinics and kindergartens and requested the prime minister to issue instructions to the concerned bodies.

The prime minister assured the people of Chahar Dehi District that attention will be paid by the concerned organs to tackle their problems.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Condemns Attacks

LD2307192490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the following concerning the intensification of rocket attacks on the residential areas of Kabul:

While hopeful horizons in connection with the political solution of the Afghan problem can be seen, and the cessation of fratricide and the restoration of peace in the country is attainable, more than at any other time, the extremist criminals, Pakistan- and Saudi Arabia-linked opposition, who have lost any hope of military victory, and while taking into account the dominant atmosphere in international relations and the Afghan people's hatred of them, seeing for themselves no role in the political future of Afghanistan, have intensified attacks with U.S. rockets they have in their possession, on the residential areas of Kabul city and innocent people of Kabul. They should know that those acts will bear no fruit, but will only make heavier the burden of their crimes and intensify the hatred of the people of Afghanistan toward them. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, as the past has shown, have not left those unmanly attacks unpunished, and resolutely crush them.

Missiles Fired on Kabul Strike Residential Areas

LD2007173790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jul 90

[Text] Criminal extremists have perpetrated another crime today by firing five surface-to-surface missiles at residential regions of Kabul city. The military section of BAKHTAR reported that one of these missiles hit Kabul's bakery complex, as a result of which two workers of this enterprise were martyred and another two were injured. The missiles were cluster-type, which were fired from the north-west to eastern direction and hit the environs of the fifth district. These missiles caused material damage too.

According to another report, the units and subunits of the General Command, Kabul Garrison, today and yesterday carried out a series of combat operations in the surroundings of Kabul. As a result of these operations 15 (?extremists) were crushed and a number of their missiles were also destroyed.

Bangladesh

Shipping Minister Dies of Illness 23 Jul

BK2307164290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Shipping Minister M. Korban Ali died at the P.G. Hospital in Dhaka this afternoon. Innalillahi Owa Inna Ilaihi Rajeun [We are for the service of God and we will return to Him]. He was 66. Mr. Korban Ali was admitted to the hospital following intestinal hemorrhage.

Immediately on receiving the news of the sad demise of Mr. M. Korban Ali, President Ershad rushed to the hospital to see the body of the deceased and consoled the members of the bereaved family. Vice President Moudud Ahmd, Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain, ministers, party leaders, Jatia Sangsad [Parliament] members also visited the hospital to pay their last respects to Mr. Korban Ali.

In a message of condolence, President Ershad described M. Korban Ali as a far-sighted politician, ideal patriot, and a highly talented personality, who had love for the people. [passage omitted]

Vice President To Head New Welfare Ministry

BK2407160890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Vice President Moudud Ahmed will hold the charge of the new Ministry of Special Affairs Welfare [as heard] in addition to his responsibility of the Ministry of Industry. The new Ministry of Special Affairs Welfare will deal with the matters relating to the administration of special areas to be designated by the government.

Party Leader Criticizes Government Economic Policy

BK2107153590 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Gazipur, July 10—Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia said here today the country has been turned into a reserved market to serve foreign interests by their local agents, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

She was addressing as chief guest at the biennial conference of the Gazipur district unit of Jatiyabadi Jubadal, youth front of BNP, at the Tongi Municipal auditorium.

Citing the national budget for 1990-91, Begum Zia said "it's a document of failure, corruption, plunder and wrong policy of the autocratic regime. [no closing quotes as published].

The budget, she said, is completely dependent on foreign aid and will increase cost of living of the people.

She said the country and its people were held hostage at the sweet will of some individuals.

The country is now pushed to a very critical situation by the present government and slogan mongers of "Joi-Bangla" [reference to Awami League] the BNP leader added.

She said under the present government, people were being forced to bear the burden of heavy taxation which resulted in the increase of prices of essentials.

In this context, Begum Zia referred to the BNP government which, she said, had utilised the people and administered a productive politics in the country. [as published]

Information Minister Says Radio Strike 'Illegal'

BK2207005290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1931 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] Dhaka, July 21 (AFP)—Information Minister Mizanur Rahman Shelly said Saturday [21 July] that a strike by officials of the state-run Bangladesh radio was "illegal," as the strikers announced plans to step up their 12-day-old action.

"They resorted to strike at a time when we are actively considering meeting their demands, and I believe realising anything with pressure does not last long," Mr. Shelly told a news conference. The strike is "illegal and has no practical basis," he added.

Some 750 radio Bangladesh officials continued to stay away from work for eight hours on Saturday, their 12th day of the campaign. Gyasuddin Bahar, member of the strikers' action committee, said that for five days from Sunday [22 July] they would extend their strike to 10 hours and then to 11 hours a day until July 31. In place of news bulletins there would only be headlines and the rest would be covered by music, he said.

Responding to the minister, Mr. Bahar said: "We have given them enough time, as a matter of fact three years, but authorities continued to dilly-dally on some pretexts to implement our demands which the Information Ministry had already accepted."

The strikers are demanding solutions to problems of promotion, cadre and grades.

Mr. Shelly announced that one demand for promotion had been implemented, and the strikers' other two demands were being considered by a broadcasting commission set up for the purpose. The minister urged the strikers to return to work, but dodged the question of what the government would do if the strike persisted.

"We do not believe in hypothetics, but it (the strike) has in fact retarded the process of solution," he said.

Radio 'Back To Normal'

BK2507012390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1713 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Dhaka, July 24 (AFP)—State-run radio Bangladesh was back to normal program transmission Tuesday, after employees ended a 19-day stoppage which forced the radio to play only recorded music for some periods. The employees called off their action Monday [23 July] after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad intervened. A senior radio official said the stoppage ended at 6:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) after Vice-President Moudud Ahmed, acting on instructions from Mr. Ershad, assured strike leaders that their "justifiable" demands would be met as soon as possible.

Some 750 employees of the radio's program and news departments went on strike July 5 for two hours a day to back demands concerning promotion and grades. They later escalated the stoppage to eight hours a day and then to 10 hours from Sunday, prompting President Ershad to intervene.

"The talks were fruitful and our achievement is that we could draw the attention of the president," a member of the strikers' action committee said following the negotiations, adding that the employees now felt confident that their demands would be met.

On Saturday, Information Minister Mizanur Rahman Shelly said that the strike was illegal and warned that the authorities would be forced to take "stern" steps unless the campaign was halted "unconditionally." But the strikers replied next day by extending their daily stoppage and announcing the action would continue at least until the end of the month.

Mr. Shelly, a former university professor and retired bureaucrat who joined the cabinet a few months ago, was present during Monday's negotiations by the vice-president.

Sources said the army had been advised to be on the alert to take charge of the radio if needed and help start normal services.

India

All India Congress Committee-I Session Begins

Gandhi Accuses Government of 'Inaction'

BK2307095690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, today called for a country-wide campaign to fight against the forces of communalism, separatism, and regionalism. Addressing the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] session in New Delhi this morning, Mr. Gandhi charged the National Front government with inaction in dealing with the burning problems facing the country like Kashmir, Punjab, and Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [religious site claimed by both Hindu and Muslim communities] issue. He accused the V.P. Singh government of accommodating communal parties to retain power and said this has posed a grave threat to the country's unity and integrity.

Saying that there was no Kashmir problem before 1989, Mr. Gandhi said the problem has been created by design to remove the National Conference-Congress-I government in the state.

The Congress-I president said weaker sections are suffering because of what he called castist alliance pursued by the ruling front. Mr. Gandhi also charged the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] with misusing and exploiting religion for political gains.

The Congress-I president referred to the party's defeat in the last general elections and said one of the main reasons was the failure of the organization to meet the challenges posed by communal elements. He asked his partymen to go to the people at grass-root level and work for their upliftment.

AICC-I Criticizes Industrial Policy

BK2307093890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The All India Congress-I Committee, which began its three-day session in New Delhi yesterday, will be discussing today the draft resolutions on international relations and political and economic situation. Three draft resolutions were finalized by the working committee at its meeting yesterday. The political draft resolution approved by the Congress-I Working Committee criticizes the National Front government for what it called depending on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata party] for its survival. It appealed to like-minded parties and secular forces to combat jointly the menace of communalism and secessionism.

Referring to the government's industrial policy, the draft economic resolution says that the National Front government is virtually succumbing to Western pressures and is welcoming foreign investments even in the consumer good sector.

Sees 'Deteriorating Situation'

BK2307162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The AICC-I has blamed the government for the deteriorating situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam. It also charged the National Front government with ignoring the country's interests in dealing with the Sri Lankan problem. The political resolution adopted at its session in New Delhi today held the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties responsible for the actions of the government which, it said, is in power because of their opportunistic support.

On Kashmir, the resolution alleges that the events in the valley were carefully planned to force the exit of the elected National Conference-Congress-I government and bring into power elements associated with the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] and other secessionist organizations.

The resolution says the civilian administration in Punjab has lost its will to fight terrorism, while in Assam there is total alienation of minorities. On the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [religious site claimed by both Hindu and Muslim communities] controversy, the resolution says nothing should be done to preempt or prejudge the issues before the court.

The AICC-I called upon the people to defeat the forces of communalism, secessionism, and castism, and resolve to mobilize all secular and progressive forces.

Referring to the Bofors issue, the resolution demands that the government should either immediately reveal the names of the individual recipients of the alleged payments or stop maligning the Congress-I and its president. It also alleged that the government has succumbed to foreign pressures on Super 310, the new industrial policy, and on the question of Amnesty International's visit to the country.

Earlier, initiating the day-long debate, the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, accused the V.P. Singh government of accommodating communal parties to remain in power. He blamed the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], a constituent of the National Front, for allowing the activities of foreign terrorists in the [Tamil Nadu] state. He was also critical of the government for the price rise.

Several delegates from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal made loud protests while the former home minister, Mr. Buta Singh, tried to defend his handling of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue and the Darjeeling problem [of Naga insurgency].

The AICC-I will take up economic and international resolutions tomorrow.

Attacks Government Foreign Policy

BK2407063290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 24 (AFP)—Indian opposition leader Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party has charged the government with following a confused foreign policy, bowing to external pressures and squandering away past diplomatic gains.

"In the last eight months, India has been on the retreat in all international and regional forums," said a Congress (I) resolution adopted here Monday night. "There is confusion in all matters of foreign policy."

The party attacked Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's National Front coalition government for "cravenly succumbing to international pressures."

"It has caved in on Super 301," the resolution said. "It has buckled under to the demand to let Amnesty International officials enter the country. It has placed our Pakistan policy in the hands of outside military powers."

It appeared to echo previous charges that the government's economic liberalisation drive was designed to appease the United States, which listed India as an unfair trade partner under the Super 301 provision of an omnibus trade bill.

The V.P. Singh government has also lifted a ban imposed by Mr. Gandhi on Amnesty International visiting India to probe alleged human rights abuses, apparently in response to U.S. criticism.

The Congress (I) said India under the present government was playing no role to resolve the conflicts in the Middle East, Afghanistan or Cambodia. "Instead, even Fiji has the temerity to throw us out with impunity," it said, referring to the May closure of India's Embassy in the South Pacific island.

The party attacked the government's handling of relations with Pakistan, which have hit an all-time low over Moslem militancy in the disputed state of Kashmir, and Sri Lanka. "Inconsistency has become the hallmark of our policy towards Pakistan," the Congress resolution said. It cited last week's talks between the two countries which followed previous assertions by India that no dialogue would be held unless Pakistan halted its interference in kashmir.

The resolution accused the National Front government of throwing away the gains of the July 1987 peace pact with Sri Lanka, under which India sent troops to the island to end Tamil separatism and ensure autonomy for the Tamil minority. The troops returned home in March this year after losing some 1,200 men in fighting with Tamil guerrillas. The Congress (I) said the troops were withdrawn without any move towards ensuring the safety and security of tamils and devolution of "true powers and responsibilities" to a Tamil-dominated provincial government. It said Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's affirmation that Indian troops would never again be sent beyond the shores of the country was "totally unacceptable."

Fighting broke out between Sri Lankan Government forces and Tamil guerrillas less than three months after the Indian withdrawal, leaving hundreds dead and sending thousands fleeing to southern India. India's troop presence in the island was a vital component of Mr. Gandhi's aggressive and activist foreign policy, which tried to project New Delhi as the regional superpower.

The National Front came to power with a pledge to remove the misgivings caused by his policy among neighbours, which had accused India of behaving like an overbearing regional bully.

Charges 'Gross Economic Mismanagement'

BK2407093390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The Congress-I has criticized the economic and industrial policies of the government, saying these will retard growth and affect self-reliance. In the draft economic resolution now being discussed on the third day of the AICC-I session in New Delhi today, the party also charges the National Front government with gross economic mismanagement and administrative indecision. It also expresses concern at the price rise. The party has alleged that the government is offering concessions to multinationals under pressure.

On the approach to the eighth [five-year development] plan, the resolution says no strategy has been outlined to increase employment by three percent per annum. It also says the government lacks a will to achieve democratic decentralization and that the model guidelines on panchayati raj [village councils system] institutions are difficult to enforce.

Gandhi Stresses Readiness for Polls

BK2507030990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The three-day session of the All India Congress-I Committee ended in New Delhi yesterday with a call by the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to the party men to be ready in case there is a mid-term poll. In his concluding remarks, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress-I does not want to topple the National Front government at the center. He called upon the delegates to reassess the strength and weaknesses of their party.

Tamil Nadu Chief Refutes Gandhi Accusation

BK2407151490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 24 (AFP)—The chief minister of India's Tamil Nadu state denied Tuesday that his government was joining with Tamil guerrillas to form an independent homeland in Sri Lanka.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted Muthuvel Karunanidhi as telling reporters in Tamil Nadu's capital Madras that the charge, made Monday by former Premier Rajiv Gandhi, was a "total lie." He said that "it was unbecoming of a former prime minister and leader of the opposition in Parliament to make such charges."

Mr. Karunanidhi also denied Mr. Gandhi's statement that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is now fighting Sri Lankan security forces, was supplying weapons to Sikh separatists in India. "The LTTE which had taken on the Sri Lankan Army would themselves require all the arms for fighting and there was therefore no substance in Mr. Gandhi's charge," the news agency quoted him as saying.

Mr. Gandhi told a convention of his Congress (I) party in New Delhi that there was "a clear nexus" between the LTTE and Mr. Karunanidhi's ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party.

The former premier added that New Delhi was not "restraining" the DMK because it was a partner in the five-party National Front which took power here in elections in November, dethroning the Congress (I).

Mr. Karunanidhi was once an ardent supporter of the LTTE's campaign for a homeland in Sri Lanka called Eelam. He still backs the powerful tigers, but has halted supporting the homeland demand.

Mr. Karunanidhi has been widely accused of allowing the LTTE to use Tamil Nadu, home to nearly 55 million Indian Tamils and separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea, as a sanctuary. Mr. Karunanidhi's denials have been brushed aside by political parties, including those which back him, particularly after gunmen said to be from the LTTE massacred 14 rivals in Madras last month.

The LTTE fought a bloody bush war against Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka, killing nearly 1,200 soldiers, until the Indians returned home in March this year.

On June 11, it renewed its military campaign against Sri Lankan forces after 14 months of peace talks with Colombo.

Kashmir 'Militants' Crossing From Pakistan Killed

BK2407150590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 20 militants were killed and nine others arrested in an encounter with security forces along the line of actual control last night. The encounter took place when a group of 29 militants was trying to cross over to the Indian side. A large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. These included 22 AK-47 rifles, 26 hand grenades, six rocket projectile guns, three light machineguns and about 1,500 rounds of ammunition. Police also arrested three Pakistan-trained militants from (Draba) area in (Surunkot). One of them is said to be a self-styled area commander of the outlawed JKLF [Jammuand Kashmir Liberation Front].

'Powerful' Blast Kills 11, Injures 18 in Bidar

BK2207020190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1813 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 21 (AFP)—At least 11 people were killed and 18 injured when a powerful bomb exploded in a crowded cinema in southern India Saturday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

It was not immediately known who was responsible for the blast in the small theatre in Karnataka state's Bidar township, a senior police official was quoted as saying.

Karnataka's inspector-general of police Chandulal told PTI that 11 people died instantly and 18 were hospitalised, two in critical condition.

The blast was so powerful that it could be heard more than one kilometre (mile) away and it caused the balcony of the theatre to collapse, PTI said.

Delhi Confirms Blast in Cinema

BK2207031990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] In Karnataka, at least 11 persons were killed and 18 others injured, two of them seriously, in a bomb blast last evening in a local cinema hall at Bidar. The balcony of the hall has collapsed. The injured have been admitted to the hospital. Prohibitory orders have been clamped in the town. The state chief minister, Mr. Virendra Patil, who is currently in Delhi, has expressed deep shock at the tragic incident. The chief minister, conveying his condolences to the bereaved families, has ordered immediate ex-gratia payments to the next of kin of those killed and injured.

13 'Hardcore Terrorists' Killed in Kashmir Valley

BK2307155590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, 13 hardcore terrorists tried to sneak into the Indian territory and have been killed by the security forces in two encounters since yesterday. Security forces have also arrested three subversives in Pulwama and recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from three places in the valley.

Meanwhile, in Jammu, the six-hour curfew relaxation period today passed off peacefully. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. Shops remained open and traffic plied normally. Curfew in the city will be relaxed for eight hours from 0900 tomorrow morning. There will be an 11-hour curfew relaxation in Srinagar city from 0700 tomorrow.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill Two Canal Engineers

BK2307093490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] In Chandigarh, the chief engineer of Sutlej-Yamuna Link [SYL] canal, Mr. N.L. Sikhri, and the superintendent engineer, Mr. A.S. Alakh, were shot dead by terrorists in their office this morning. An executive engineer and the P.A. [Personal Assistant] of the chief engineer were seriously injured in the accident.

According to an official spokesman, four terrorists came to SYL canal office at about 0945 [0415 GMT] and started indiscriminate firing, killing Mr. Sikhri on the spot. Mr. Alakh succumbed to his injury in the PGI [Post-Graduate Institute] hospital.

Reportage on Continued Violence in Punjab

Sikh Students Call for Stop

BK2207160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] The All India Sikh Students Federation-Manjit faction has appealed to terrorists to stop killings of innocent people in Punjab. In a resolution adopted at its executive meeting held at Tarn Taran today, the federation said that the killings of civilians and security personnel are a matter of grave concern.

The federation has also evolved a program to check incidents of extortion and looting and to identify the persons responsible for such activities. It has also demanded early elections to the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak—Sikh Temple Management—Committee] saying it can play an important role in the state.

Student Leader Among 8 Killed

BK2407074890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] In Punjab, eight persons, including five terrorists and an All India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF]-Manjit section leader, have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activity since last night. According to an official spokesman, two terrorists were killed near Kotlarai of Faridkot District and two in Jhabal area of Amritsar District in separate encounters early this morning and one in Tanda area of Hoshiarpur District last night. The Ferozepur District president of AISSF-Manjit group, Sukhraj Singh, was shot dead by terrorists at his house in a village in Ferozepur District last night. In another incident in Amritsar District, terrorists kidnapped two members of Village Defense Force from the bus stand of village Jaintipura and later shot them dead in Kathua Nangal.

Delhi Reports 7 Killed 20 Jul

BK2107045490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including two terrorists, were killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman two hardcore terrorists were killed in an encounter with a BSF [Border Security Force] patrolling party in Dera Baba Nanek area of Gurdaspur District last night. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them. In another incident in Gurdaspur District, one person was shot dead by terrorists in Kahuwa area. Elsewhere, terrorists shots dead two shopkeepers in (Sunan) town of Sangrur District, a farmer in Kapurthala District and a youth in Samana area of Patiala District. The father of the youth was seriously injured in the last incident.

Coast Guard Off-Shore Patrol Vessel Commissioned

BK1907105390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] The off-shore patrol vessel Varadh was today handed over to the Coast Guard. A ceremony was held at Vasco in Goa where the director general of Coast Guard, Vice Admiral S.W. Lakhar, accepted it. The vessel has been built by the Goa Shipyard Limited at a cost of 28 crore rupees. This is the eighth ship of Coast Guard in the patrol vessel series. Another vessel Varar will be commissioned next year.

Private Sector Allowed Role in Steel Production

BK1907105190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] The Government has decided to allow setting up of steel manufacturing units in the private sector with a capacity of up to 10 lakh tons per annum to meet the shortfall in production. The present ceiling was 2.5 lakh tons. Announcing the liberalized policy to newsmen in New Delhi today, the minister for steel and mines, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, said that the government will allow such units to employ technology based on small blast furnaces which would save energy consumption. The minister said a high-level inter-ministerial committee will evaluate proposals from private entrepreneurs for establishing steel units.

Mr. Goswami said the decision was not in any way dilute the dominant position of the public sector. He also said that government will ensure that no multinationals creep into steel production in the country.

Iran

U.S. To Submit Countersuit to Airbus Claim

AU2407115090 Paris AFP in English 1112 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The Hague, July 24 (AFP)—Iran handed in a "memorandum" to the International Court in The Hague on Tuesday asking for financial compensation in the case of the Iranian Airbus shot down by U.S. forces in the Gulf in July 1988. Iran is challenging a ruling by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) that the shooting down of the Airbus with the loss of 290 lives, by the U.S. cruiser Vincennes was "a tragic mistake".

Iran wants the International Court to pronounce this ruling to be "wrong" and vindicate the Iranian accusation that the decision to fire on the aircraft was a breach of the Montreal Convention on civil aviation safety. Teheran is seeking financial compensation for Iran Air for the loss of the plane and for the families of the 290 people killed.

The United States is due to submit its "counter-memorandum" by March 1991. Formal hearings will begin two or three months after that date.

The Iran Air aircraft was shot down on July 3 by two missiles fired from the U.S. Navy ship Vincennes which was on patrol duty in the Gulf at the height of the Iran-Iraq conflict. The U.S. crew said they believed the Airbus was an Iranian jet intending to attack them. The incident occurred after a series of attacks against foreign ships in the Gulf.

Supreme Court To Issue Verdict on Cooper 'Soon'

NC2407145890 Paris AFP in English 1439 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 24 (AFP)—The Iranian supreme court is soon to issue its verdict on British businessman Roger Cooper, who has been jailed here since 1985 on spying charges, the head of Iran's judiciary has disclosed.

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, in an interview appearing in the weekly publication Keyhan Havai, added that any sentence approved against Mr. Cooper "should be applied immediately after its pronouncement."

Ayatollah Yazdi provoked a storm of criticism in hardline newspapers here last year when he said spiritual guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i should pardon Mr. Cooper.

Iraq-Kuwait Military Clash 'Seems Remote'

LD2407143290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. As you have heard in the news, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived in Baghdad unexpectedly, to work to prevent the possible eruption of a military clash between the two countries of Iraq and Kuwait. In addition, THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper reported that 30,000 of the Iraqi special military forces, estimated to be composed of two battalions, as well as 2,000-3,000 military vehicles and tanks, passed through the streets of Baghdad in front of the people and the foreign diplomats, stationing themselves on that country's border with Kuwait. [passage omitted] If such reports are correct, one can deduce that all of the mediatory initiatives hitherto taken by Egypt, Jordan, Arabestan Saudi Arabia, and Algeria toward the resolution of this crisis have so far failed to achieve any effective results. On the other hand, the mounting of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis and the increasing probability of a military clash between these two countries—on the eve of the OPEC oil ministers session in Geneva—will confront this session with a new complex problem, and it may have an impact on that session.

However, one should not forget that the principle axis of Iraq's accusations against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates were leveled in relation to the oil production above the set quota, which has caused the decline in the price of oil in the international markets.

Notwithstanding the report of the mobilization of military forces of the two countries of Kuwait and Iraq on their common border, so far there have been no confirmations from the other news sources. But the political sources are of the opinion that if these reports are correct, Iraq's objective in parading its military forces through the streets of Baghdad in public view, specifically past the foreign diplomats and journalists, is to stage a power-play in front of Kuwait in order to strengthen its position in the political negotiations towards the resolution of this crisis, and possibly to influence the outcome of the next session of OPEC oil ministers. In light of this, the probability of any extensive military clash or war between the two countries seems remote, especially because in the course of the past three decades, the two countries' border disputes have not culminated in a military clash. In 1961, however, the Iraqi Government, under the pretext of a territorial claim on Kuwait, dispatched a few military battalions to its borders with Kuwait, which produced no result, due to a threat by Britain and the occurence of a coup d'etat in Iraq.

More on President's Remarks to Iranian Envoys

LD2407125990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The heads of the Islamic Republic's foreign missions abroad together with the minister and officials of the Foreign Ministry last night were received by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president. In this meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani after hearing the report of Mr. Velayati, foreign minister, and several ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning several regions in the world, issued some guidelines with regards to the political stances of the Islamic Republic and said: After the acceptance of the [UN] resolution [598], His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—commissioned a group to draw up the construction policies of the country. These policies were formulated under the leadership of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i], in his capacity as [the then] president, and heads of other forces, the prime Minister, and whith the assistance of a group of ministers, representatives of the Majles, and as well as a group of experts, and formed the basis of the preparation of the Five-Year Plan. The president added: These policies after being prepared by His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i were shown to his holiness the imam, were approved by him, and were published as the official policy of the Islamic Republic. On the basis of these policies the Five-Year Plan has been prepared and, up to now, these same policies are the axis of the official construction policy of the country.

Obviously the free atmosphere prevailing over society necessitated some people's opposition to these policies, but certainly the categorical policy of the Islamic

Republic will not be an enemy-seeking one. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: The Foreign Ministry should be brave, efficient, and active in its stances in such a way that the political affairs of the country could be formulated and discussed in society through this Ministry.

The president pointing to the economic problems of the country added: Most of our problems are economic ones, and the presently the chief policy and slogan in the country's economic sector is production. The country's rial problem has been eliminated and the bankruptcy of factories has been prevented and they have reached a reasonable level of production and profit; and certainly with the continuation of better production levels the state of distribution will improve as well. But there is need for time to bring a balance between production and consumption.

The president, referring to the new conditions within OPEC, said suitable conditions have been created within OPEC which should gradually bring the price of oil closer to its real point. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in conclusion added the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to establish closer ties with neighboring and regional countries, and the country has no problem with European countries save with Britain.

Paper Decries News Agency's 'Mischief-Mongering'

NC2407180190 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Jul 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "Mischief-mongering by News Agencies"]

[Text] Some days ago, KUNA cited Tokyo sources who said that the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Tokyo, Kazempur-Ardebili, requested former Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe's help in improving relations between Iran and the United States and that Shintaro Abe promised to convey his request to the U.S. Government!

This report was most amazing and unexpected to all those who heard it. No one could believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador would take such a step opposed to the policy of his own government. The ministry was contacted and asked to comment and investigate on the truth of the allegation. Fortunately, the ministry followed it up swiftly and issued a response.

The response was: Mr. Kazempur-Ardebili, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Japan, has refuted the report and added that Mr. Shintaro Abe suggested that he should take steps to improve ties between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran and that Mr. Kazempur-Ardebili informed him that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government had no desire to establish ties with the United States and gave him a negative answer.

In view of this, KUNA should specify the source of the news report that it disseminated. Is KUNA doing this mischief-mongering or are there other hands behind it who have also deceived Kuwait?

Participation in Cairo OIC Meeting Viewed

NC2107115090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran Should Have a Strong Presence in OIC's Cairo Meet"]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, upon his return from Kuwait announced last Wednesday [11 July] that Iran will attend the upcoming Cairo meet of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference with a team of experts only.

Elaborating Velayati said the country does not follow "a policy of empty chairs" meaning boycotting international forums especially one among Islamic nations. As such in spite of the fact that Iran and Egypt do not maintain diplomatic relations at the moment, the Islamic Republic is determined to take part in the OIC's Cairo meet.

For a fact however Iran has not had a strong presence in the OIC meets since its Islamic Revolution of 1979. This was mainly because Iran had a negative impression of the OIC especially in the first few years after the revolution. But the country's top-ranking officials seem not to entertain such a view towards the OIC anymore.

One reason however for Iran's refraining from having a strong presence in the OIC's forums so far comes from the fact that Iran has not had friendly relations with the countries hosting the meets.

But from a practical perspective Iran should attach more importance to OIC meetings. The Islamic Republic's bilateral ties with the host countries should not deter Iran from having a strong presence in these meetings. Iran may or may not have friendly ties with one or more of OIC member nations at the time the meets are being held.

As such the statement by Foreign Minister Velayati that avoiding a policy of empty chairs Iran attends the Cairo meet at a low level does not hold much water from a logical point of view.

Certainly the foreign minister is well aware that there is not much difference, as far as the consequences are concerned, between not attending a meeting or attending it at a low level. Non- participation or a weak presence means to allow the political adversaries to push for their stances without a strong opposition from the Islamic Republic.

It is about time we corrected some of our past mistakes in foreign policy. Velayati, as the chief of the nation's foreign policy planning, however should accept the blame for at least some of the mistakes done so far. One has been a weak presence in significant international forums such as the OIC.

Iran's non-participation or weak representation in international meetings is just what reactionary governments in Islamic countries want.

Experience shows that it was under Iranian pressure in the OIC's past meet that a condemnation of Salman Rushdie was included in the resolution of the meeting.

We must avoid mixing a principle with passing political maneuvers. Iran's attendance in international forums is a must while bilateral relations are subject to change. These two should not be mixed.

Editorial Sees Quake Aid as Sign of 'Respect'

NC2407141790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Foreign Relief Aid: Sign of International Respect for Iran"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, justifying Iran's acceptance of foreign relief aid, strongly rejected the position of anyone who might oppose such assistance to earthquake victims.

During Friday prayer ceremonies yesterday the president said rejection of international aid for victims was "very illogical". "No one sitting in his airconditioned room can tell entombed people to stay where they are because I do not want foreign aid."

In fact the president's speech during the socio-political congregational prayer yesterday proved to be the most comprehensive report of the catastrophic earthquake given by the country's chief executive.

He took up the issue of foreign relief aid for a detailed discussion and clarified many a point that had been lost in the sensational approach some quarters had adopted in dealing with the issue.

He in particular shed light on the government's position in accepting the international assistance donated to help the quake victims. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i had been consulted on the matter too.

According to the president the leader had stressed that "we have no right to reject others' aid, unless the foreigners want to take advantage of the situation".

Representing the Iranian people the president of the republic once again appreciated all the international agencies and foreign governments that were sent to help Iran during this national disaster.

In his analysis of why so much help had been funnelled to Islamic Iran Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the huge volume of aid signified the value and respect the world's people attached to Iran.

From a very realistic point of view the attention paid Iran in the international scene proves that the propaganda of certain foreign media on the so-called political isolation of the country is absolutely wrong.

And it is very much true. The large volume of international assistance poured into Iran in recent days is in itself testifies to the fact that Iran is not at all isolated as some quarters claim so vociferously. [sentence as published] Rather, and on the contrary, Iran is in the limelight of attention in the international community. The acceptance of foreign aid relief for quake victims and the gratitude shown the donators by top-ranking Iranian officials are in fact indicative of Iran's dynamic presence in the international scene.

Much to the chagrin of the enemies of this country and its Islamic Revolution Iran has never been nor will it ever be isolated. The Islamic Republic's strong presence in international scene is what the adversaries of this country will have to accept willy-nilly.

Editorial Views Need for Speedy Reconstruction

NC2407145790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Efforts To Reconstruct Quake-Hit Areas Should Be Expedited"]

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while appreciating foreign relief supplies for earthquake-hit areas, recently said the aids would not significantly affect reconstruction areas activities. But he stressed the aids had been very timely and as such effective in rescue works.

According to the president what Iran needs most in reconstructing quake-hit areas are construction material and that international aids along this line would be welcome. With or without such aids however Iran is determined to carry out the reconstruction activities.

The cold and rainy season will begin in a few months from now and housing projects for the quake victims should then be expedited. Shelter definitely tops the list of requirements by the victims.

Beside the government which has mobilized all its resources to assist the victims, the Iranian people have been, in recent weeks, and will in future do anything they can to help their fellow countrymen.

Yet international community's relief supplies can play an important role too. In the same way as foreign assistance helped save many lives in the first after-quake days, it can definitely contribute greatly to a speedy implementation of housing projects in the victim areas.

Iran, however, as already stated by top-ranking officials, welcomes international relief supplies donated to victims nations, [as published] big or small, at times of natural disasters.

But a proper assessment of the needed material and equipment in this phase of reconstruction of victim areas is very important. For instance, although a primary requirement, food can be supplied by domestic resources to the victims and needs not to be sent from abroad. But when it comes to construction material and equipment, Iran needs as much aid as it can get especially heavy equipment and construction-related machineries.

Some countries like West Germany have already dispatched machineries, such as vehicles for rugged areas which are very helpful.

Paper on U.S. Quake Assistance, Implications

NC2407191990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Jul 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "The Satan's Hypocrisy"]

[Excerpts] The horrifying earthquake in the two northern provinces which took a heavy toll in extensive loss of life and property was a test for all. Today, not only the people of Iran—who have emerged successful from all the similar God-sent tests during the past 11 years—have triumphed in this ordeal, but so have the nations of the world who have participated in this test. The enormous volume of assistance by people all over the world—from the Islamic and non-Islamic countries—presents a picture of moral success. [passage omitted]

The earthquake disaster should be considered a touchstone for the sincerity of countries with regard to the dimensions of the assistance extended to victims of the catastrophe. In clearer terms, when the assistance is massive and accompanying publicity is minimal, it demonstrates greater sincerity. In contrast, when there is a mountain of publicity as well as expectations for insignificant aid, it merits very little moral or humanitarian appreciation. It is precisely because of this aspect that the assistance by all the foreign governments cannot be considered purely humanitarian and without strings.

We cannot place the FRG aid of $3.8 billion—which was casually mentioned in some news agencies—on the same level with the $760,000 in aid given by the United States, which was accompanied by extensive and widespread publicity in the United States, eclipsing the worth of this insignificant assistance, and to feel the same about both. [passage omitted]

Under cover of the aid by the United States, there is talk of the possible resumption of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. When a country conceals its avarice and ulterior motives behind some insignificant assistance, it is not shown enough gratitude. It then raises protests, and mobilizes its mass media.

Such an attitude is not humanitarian as far as earthquake victims are concerned, and deserves contempt and reprimand as well.

The people of Iran are well aware of the value of the assistance offered to them and are able to differentiate between political as well as humanitarian objectives. By throwing a paltry amount of financial assistance in our faces, the Americans have once agian displayed their sheer hypocrisy.

They should rest assured that the wounds that have their origins in years of tyranny and aggression, crime and duress, cannot be healed by a meager amount of assistance, or accorded certain motives and objectives. The United States is still the arch-Satan and if the arch-Satan takes one humanitarian step, it is a hypocritical one, accompanied by its filthy and diabolical objectives.

Official on Foreign Flights, Obtaining Planes

NC2407135090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Mashhad—recorded]

[Text] On the eve of the month of Muharram, the first direct flight to Damascus for the pilgrimage to Syria from Khorasan Province took place last night during a ceremony at Mashhad international airport. The Central News Unit reports that 460 pilgrims were flown on this flight, and a total of 12,000 pilgrims from Khorasan will be flown to Syria on 22 flights by 2 October this year.

The managing director of the Civil Aviation Organization [CAO] of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated at the ceremony inaugurating these flights that with the completion of the flights from Khorasan Province during the current year, similar flights will be conducted from other provincial centers like Esfahan and Shiraz.

When the plane took off, the CAO managing director spoke to correspondents on Iran's request from Iraq about the delivery of two passenger planes, on the establishment of foreign flights, and on the purchase of airplanes. We invite you to listen to our colleague's report on this:

[Begin recording] The CAO managing director explicitly called on Iraq to proceed immediately and unconditionally with the delivery of two planes that belong to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was speaking to correspondents in Mashhad last night and stated: Until today Iraq has made this issue contingent on the Iran-Iraq peace talks and on the signing of Resolution 598, while on the basis of international laws this issue has no connection whatsoever with the resolution; so Iraq should return these two planes to Iran as soon as possible.

The CAO managing director then expressed his satisfaction on the establishment of foreign flights and the pilgrimage flights to Syria via the provincial centers and expressed hopes that by Mehr [October] this year, flights from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kuwait will take place from Tehran and Shiraz.

Engineer Shafti pointed out that if an agreement is reached with Pakistan, the Quetta-Mashhad flight will also be established and that as far as flights to Canada are concerned, it is hoped that we will reach an agreement with Canada through Europe by the end of the current [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1991] and that this flight will also take place.

On the signing of agreements and purchase of planes from foreign countries, he said: The permission to purchase 12 planes has been approved by the Economic Council, and they will be purchased after the necessary negotiations, which are taking place, are completed.

Eng. Shafti clarified: We will enter into transactions with any country that can meet our views, and our efforts are aimed at purchasing better and more superior planes.

In conclusion, the CAO managing director referred to the establishment of the CAO representation in Singapore during the recent days and expressed hopes that the necessary steps will be taken during the current [Iranian] year to open a similar office in Canada too.

This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Mashhad. [end recording]

Cross-Border Visits With USSR 'Commonplace'

LD2307141290 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbaijan Prov., July 23, IRNA—More than 2,500 dwellers of the either sides of the Northern Aras river visited each other for three hours in Bolaghi district of Pol-e Dasht border area Sunday.

The Iranian and Soviet nationals used the summer time subsidence of the river and crossed it to each other's countries.

The meetings which take place twice a week on Sundays and Fridays are becoming commonplace events, without prompting any reaction from the Soviet border officers.

Editorial Offers 'Advice' to Islamic Movements

NC2407144990 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 1 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Advice for Our Muslim Brothers"]

[Text] Perhaps the best advice the Iranian nation can give to other Islamic movements in the world, especially those in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and Jordan, would be for them to analyze the revolutionary experience here of the past 11 years. What will become immediately apparent are the wide range of plots we have endured, and that they will face, or have already encountered to a degree.

One level of conspiracy they might experience could resemble a problem that a number of Third World countries have seen, especially in Latin America. Reviewing the history of that region and CIA involvement there, it becomes apparent that so-called radical individuals and groups sprang up which in fact were counterrevolutionary movements, American plants. This phenomenon is particularly apparent in segments of the labor movement, certain psuedo-leftist tendencies and amidst individuals and organizations who claim as their mandate speaking to the plight of the oppressed masses.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is not free of these conspiracies. Here, personalities inherently conservative, have taken cover beneath radical positions and attained revolutionary posts. One obvious symptom of this are those who have attempted to justify the status quo: dependent capitalism or the economic heritage of the past regime. A truly radical portion would not countenance being, in reality, a pawn of imperialist interests in this way. [sentence as published]

It is clear what effect this brand of economics will and has had on the whole of society. Obviously it has contributed strongly to the inequality in the distribution of wealth and income and consequently engendered a proportionate increase in the political power of these elements. This has come about in conditions wherein the nation was faced with a war, economic sanctions and the resultant shrinking economy.

Under these circumstances those who had capital were able to manipulate a number of economic forces and lever, including basic commodities and reap huge profits on the black market. In the context of these conditions, naturally the poor will become poorer, while the middle classes find themselves increasingly dis-empowered.

Still another result of these conservative figures playing pseudo-radical coming to power relates to freedom of expression. On the one hand they pay lip service to and appear to champion the cause of freedom of expression and related freedoms over a wide spectrum of society. They speak as if they were the entire nation. Yet they will tolerate neither sustained or even sporadic criticism of the existing state of affairs.

A manifestation of this reactionarism is to label, and where possible, persecute those who don't toe their line. It is in truth a type of Yazidism or Stalinism: those who favor us are of us and all the rest are enemies.

Herein they resemble closely the U.S. attitude of support for Israel and more generally Washington's efforts to spread "democracy" worldwide. Under the banner of freedom of expression and defending democracy all crimes are rendered lawful for Washington: Witness the decade long destruction of Nicaragua for achieving a candidate of America's choice and the slaughter of 1,000 plus Panamanians to accomplish the kidnapping of Manuel Noriega. Political labelling played a crucial role in both those adventures.

With respect to Israel the game is even more immediately clear. Certainly one of the most lawless and aggressive regimes on earth, Israel is defended as a bastion of "democracy" and "freedom" in a sea of surrounding benighted humanity—as the story goes. Labelling here is also vital as Israel's enemies are known as 'terrorist' and 'fundamentalist'. This is tantamount to an American carte blanche for all manner of fundamental terror being applied to the Zionist state's enemies, both inside Palestine and throughout the region.

Clearly then, the label-mongers in Iran, these conservatives parading as radicals, have taken a page from the Great Satan's "How to Manual" and the followers of this line know what they are doing. They aim to remove many elements from political activity who have rendered many services in the cause of the revolution. These are people whose actions are clearly conservative in defense of the status quo while their rhetoric remains white-hot radical, as opposed to the genuine radicals in the Majlis and other institutions who are hard at work defending the genuine values of the revolution and the rights of the oppressed.

Thus, as can be witnessed from the Iranian experience, the challenges facing Islamic movements worldwide are manifold. These people must write their revolution's history day by day and beware of thoe who join after the victory.

They must be careful, if and when they attain power, to restructure their respective economies so that they be the least dependent on world markets. Freedom of expression cannot be neglected as it is a necessary to strengthen revolution. [sentence as published] It is also of utmost importance that these movements, which seek to become governments, rely on their own human resources to solve their problems. Lastly, they should avoid using unattainable slogans because if these flashpoints cannot be achieved they only serve to divert popular attention from pressing, genuine tasks that can bear fruit.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Poverty, Addiction

LD2107111290 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 21 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 21—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday stressed that poverty and addiction should be eradicated in the Muslim Iranian society and be replaced by social justice and healthcare for the benefit of the oppressed and deprived masses. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani was addressing a group of officials and experts of the welfare, and social security organisations here this morning. He blamed the former regime or utilizing the country's potentials and resources for the benefit of a handful of people at the expense of the dispossessed.

The president noted that although in the aftermath of the victory of the Islamic Revolution great strides have been made to provide facilities for the deprived areas, still there is a long way to go in this regard.

The president was later briefed on the activities of the two organisations.

Dr. Mohammed Yarigar-Ravesh, head of the welfare organisation said that currently there are four million aged people in Iran, of whom 3-4 thousands with no bread winners are under the patronage of the organisation. He added that some 3,000 centers are taking care of 85,000 families with no bread winners, of which 27,000 are in rural areas. He noted that the organisation was also in charge of the issues pertaining to addicts who numbered 700,000 to one million in Iran.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abolfazl Gharazi, head of the social security organisation noted that some 2.7 million workers in over 600,000 workshops throughout the country were benefitting from insurance policies provided by the organisation.

Karrubi on 'Ulema Sermons, Assembly of Experts

LD2407142390 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—A prominent cleric Monday called on ulema [clergymen] to express their criticisms and viewpoints in their sermons during the mourning month of Muharram (beginning today) in a manner not to be abused by foreigners. Secretary of the Society of Combatant Ulema Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, also called on the ulema to discuss problems of the society, evolution of the Islamic revolution in the world and cooperation with the world oppressed in their speeches.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi who is also Majlis speaker, elaborated that preservation of unity and freedom neither meant creation of suppression nor aspersion. [as received] He stressed that massive congregation of people in mosques during the month would be to the benefit of the Islamic society and unity of forces.

Muharram marks the first month of the lunar calendar. For Shi'ite Muslims the month is regarded as a mourning period since Imam Husayn (peace be upon him) [PBUH], the third imam of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) household, and his 72 faithful aides were martyred in a severe fighting with the army of Yazid, the tyrant of Kufa, in the year 681.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi refuted dubiousness over the change in the venue and regulations of the forthcoming elections for the Assembly of Experts.

He added that the changes had not appeared in the Assembly's agenda, noting that changes in the regulations would practically prevent participation of a number of those who had prepared themselves for the elections.

He said he had no idea on the leader Ayatollah Khamene'i's views over the said changes, adding that the leader had only expressed dissatisfaction over the venue to be 'Imam Khomeyni's Mosque'.

Official Cited on Assembly of Experts Decisions

LD2407202490 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—The secretariat of Friday prayer leaders in a statement issued here Tuesday described any effort to undermine the approvals of the Assembly of Experts as an "open treason against Islam and the Islamic revolution."

The statement also quoted President Hashemi-Rafsanjani as saying that it was in no way advisable to undermine the approvals of the assembly and that any effort by anyone to this end would mean committing a treason against the people, Muslims and the revolution and helping the enemies of Islam with their ominous plots.

The Assembly of Experts recently met at Imam's Husseiniyeh where the leader receives visitors in Tehran during which they amended some of the body's regulations.

The amendments to the assembly's regulations switch the venue of the body from Qom to Tehran and empower the Council of Guardians, the body in charge of endorsing the laws passed by the Majlis, to confirm the qualifications of those elected as members of the assembly.

Previously, a council consisting of three teachers of the theological school of Qom verified the qualifications of the experts.

Meanwhile, Hojjat ol-Eslam Assadollah Bayat, a member of the Association of Combatant Ulema of Tehran, opposed the amendments as being "null and void from legal and philosophical points of view."

"The Council of Guardians whose existence is subject to the will of the leadership cannot be responsible for appointing the experts," Bayat said.

He reiterated "Those who recently found some faults with the recent approvals of the Assembly of Experts did not mean to undermine the body."

Bayat, also vice-speaker of the Majlis, reasoned that accoding to the assembly's regulations also verified by the late Imam Khomeyni, the body should convene in qom in order not to be influenced by any of the legislative, executive or judicial branches.

"If anybody announces that it would not be advisable for the Assembly of Experts to convene at the Imam's Husseiniyeh this would be aimed at preserving and strengthening the sanctity of the experts," he said, adding "the leader (Ayatollah Khamene'i), too has been in the same belief."

According to the previous regulations, he said, the experts must be quite familiar with jurisprudential principles so that they could elect a leader and to decide whether an expert had such an ability rested with three teachers of jurisprudence at theological schools.

He said the previous regulations were "more sound" than the amended ones because of their reliance on theological schools. He added that by entrusting the Council of Guardians with the task of assessig the competency of the candidates, the level of qualification evaluation has been actually reduced from legal point of view.

"Appointment or dismissal of the jursiprudent members of the Council of Guardians rests with leader and so it would not be right from legal point of view if the council was entrusted with the task of evaluating the competency of experts," he remarked.

Research Center Chief Urges Scholars To Cooperate

LD2307114590 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA Head of the Strategic Research Center Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Kho'iniha invited all foreign researchers and scholars who are not hostile towards the Islamic Republic to cooperate with the center.

Addressing a press conference here Monday, Kho'iniha said the center has so far compiled studies in economy, politics, security and international relations. The center acts under the auspieces of the president.

Outlines Tasks

LD2307133690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] At a gathering of reporters today, Mr. Musavi Kho'iniha, head of the strategic research center, described the motive behind the inception, duties, and research priorities of the center.

He referred to the fact that the strategic research center was set up at the proposal of the president. He described the motive behind the inception of the centre as carrying out research and presenting the results to the esteemed leader, the country's chief executive, the Majles, and the public.

He said: At the first session of the center's research council, which took place some time ago, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who chaired the session, stressed the importance of research in issues such as the future of the world of Islam and the mission of the Islamic Republic in that context; the importance of the country's investment in this respect; energy; developments in the Eastern bloc and their impact on other countries; and population classification.

He added: Since the most important duty of the center is to research in methods of developing the country, research in all fields, such as economy, politics, security, international relations, science and technology, and defense of Islamic ideology, is within the scope of duties of the center.

He then referred to a number of research projects in foreign policy, which could be placed on the agenda of the research centre. He said: One of the research projects could be the topic of the superpowers, particularly America. Because of that country's hostile policies towards the Islamic revolution, it is important for the center to carry out the necessary research without any preconceptions, and present the results to the authorities so that, with sufficient insight, a comprehensive policy to confront America can be adopted. [passage omitted]

Roundtable Views Resurgence of Islam in Algeria

LD1907202290

[Editorial report] Tehran Television Service in Persian at 1627 GMT on 19 July broadcasts a 53-minute political roundtable program devoted to the resurgence of Islam in Algeria. The participants in the discussion are Firuznia, the director of the department in charge of the Arab Middle East and North Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Ya'qubi, the former ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Algeria.

The program starts with an eight-minute introduction about the growth of Islamic feeling in Algeria, the gains of the Islamic parties in the recent elections, and the anxiety which it has caused in the West. After this introduction, Firuznia is asked to speak about the history of Islamic movements in Algeria. He talks about the early Islamic conquests, up to the period of French colonization from 1830, followed by the role of the mosques in popular uprisings against the French until the achievement of independence and later. Algleria is in the front line of defense against corrupt Western culture, but Islamic groups continued their campaign against Western culture and strengthened their Islamic identity.

Ya'qubi continues the discussion and says that Islam is the most important element of Algerian culture. He refers to a number of movement which played an important role in Algerian independence and he maintains that most of those movement were Islamic. They also discuss various groups which are Islamic but note that the Islamic Salvation Front is more politically active.

The next question is about the influence of the success of Islamic parties in Algeria in the rest of the North African countries. The speakers say that the Algerian president realized that to receive public support and public participation it had no choice but to give freedom to the activities of Islamic parties, but in Tunisia and Morocco the governments are trying to confront the Islamic movements.

As for the West's reaction to the resurgence of Islam in Algeria, the West is trying to minimize its importance and has engaged in a great deal of anti-Islamic propaganda. However, the Islamic movement enjoys a great deal of maturity and the Western propaganda will not have any effect on it, they say.

In conclusion Firuznia asserts that if North African countries give freedom to the Islamic parties it will be in their interest and it will promote strength and greater unity.

Bank Governor Speaks on Utilizing Foreign Loans

LD2507090290 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA—"Iran has come to the conclusion to use some $17.5 billion from foreign sources on the condition that it is solely spent on execution of a certain production project." said Governor of Iran's Central bank Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli here Monday.

Speaking in a seminar sponsored by the institute for banking and monetary research, affiliated to the Central Bank, 'Adeli said, "The country's budget has provisioned utilizing foreign resources and we plan to secure it from sources, institutions or countries which could be to our interest."

'Adeli who headed Iran's delegation to a joint session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) in Washington last May, reporting to the seminar on his trip added that foreign borrowing is not an outmoded practice in essence and all depends on how it is exploited.

On whether Iran intends to receive loan from the IMF or WB, he said, "We have had no negotiations with WB concerning taking a loan and that the purpose of IMF delegations' visits to Iran was merely to conduct routine annual consultations." 'Adeli, however, assessed that the presence of WB and IMF expert delegations in Iran after a ten-year elapse to exchange information on economic developments in the Islamic Republic as "positive."

The Central Bank governor also added that Iran has briefed WB on the projects to be implemented during the current 5-year economic development plan, but no specific decision has yet been adopted on financing these projects from WB resources.

He further told the seminar attended by a large number of economic experts, that average inflation rate in developing countries last year was about 104 percent. However, "In Iran, it plunged to 17 percent," he added.

'Adeli also touched on role of the shares of the member countries in the executive mechanism of the IMF and defended the scheme to increase Iran's share in the body.

Also addressing the seminar, a Central Bank economic expert, Shojaeddini briefed the audience on the role of the private sector in economic development and on the IMF and WB's recommendations calling for entrusting parts of the state economy to the private sector.

He added creation of a proper atmosphere, curbing the government activities in areas which could be handled by the private sector and introduction of an efficient financial system to utilize domestic and foreign resources were the three basic criteria guaranteeing economic development in cooperation with the private sector.

He cited lack of a defined strategy, competent and powerful foremen, absence of capital markets such as stock exchange, lack of competition among economic institutions, acute bureaucratic and legal problems as well as political sensitivities, as problems hindering execution of the economic development plan.

Commentary Describes Drug Enforcement Operations

NC2507081490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0440 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] According to recently published statistics on the latest operations in the fight against drugs, more than 15 networks manufacturing and distributing drugs in five provinces in the country were disbanded, 810 merchants of death were arrested, and over 900 kg of various drugs were seized in the second half of Tir 1369 [22 June-22 July 1990].

The drugs were discovered by patrol units during random searches as they were being transported in the Provinces of Khorasan, Esfahan, Fars, Lorestan, and West Azerbaijan. The statistics also reveal that 1,179 drug addicts were arrested and handed over to judicial organs last month.

The launching of the fight against drugs has caused drug manufacturing and distributing networks to become increasingly terrified of falling into the hands of the law. Since early 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] when the Val 'Adiyat operations began, the main objective has been disband urban drug smuggling networks. Further operations under the name of "Zafar-1" and "Zafar-2" were also carried out periodically.

When organizing their operations, the officials in charge of the drug enforcement headquarters have always borne in mind the three main axes of the fight against drugs: controlling the borders, dismantling urban networks, and confronting addicts. The axis of dismantling urban and inter-urban networks is one of the most important aspects of the fight against drugs. Urban networks have always tried to keep the drug market going by transporting drugs in secret compartments. However, the extensive and organized operations by the Islamic Revolution Committee in the cities have created many difficulties and problems for these culprits, and the operations against the vestiges of former bands are continuing.

To discover and dismantle the urban networks, the Islamic Revolution Committee has resorted to various methods and made use of information it has received. This has enabled it to make significant discoveries of which the Iranian people are aware. A considerable proportion of the information received was placed at the disposal of the Islamic Revolution Committee through the people's cooperation. Thus, the people played their part in this social improvement.

There is no doubt that the drug enforcement headquarters needs the government's help to expand its operations and capabilities. Many of the urban bands use complicated systems which need to be confronted by greater technical resources and better training. Tightening the grip on the urban bands will also increase pressure on addicts.

The Islamic Revolution Committee's city patrols are doing their best to search for smugglers and suspects and to gain information from the people. The Islamic Revolution Committee has concentrated its fight against drugs in the cities on dismantling large drug distribution bands. In this way, the smaller traffickers will also be arrested.

The recent figures published by the Islamic Revolution Committee reveal the continuation and concentration of the struggle on ways to eliminate the problem at its roots; that is, the smugglers. These figures also show the importance of the fight against drugs.

In view of all this, the drug enforcement headquarters is trying, by increasing its efforts and capabilities, to continue the fight against social pests and problems such as drugs until the favorable desired result is achieved and society is thus saved from the destructive impact of addiction.

*IRGC, Basijis Titles, Ranks Announced

90AS0129A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 May 90 p 2

[Text] News Division:

Details of a plan to grant ranks to the personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC—Pasdaran] were announced yesterday by the Human Resources Department of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, during a news conference with correspondents.

According to our correspondent, at the beginning of the interview Mr. 'Andalib said: With the stipulation of the high leadership, the general principles of the draft consist of the primacy of school criteria, observance of the mutual rights of the organization's personnel, coordination and preservation of unity in the armed forces of the Islamic Republic.

He said: This law has been prepared on the basis of the articles of the army law of the Islamic Republic and some of the articles of the law have been changed where deemed necessary.

Continuing the interview, the human resources deputy of the Corps added: In the compilation of the Corp's law, the laws of the army, the organization for civil administrative and employment affairs, experiences of the ministries, organizations, views of university professors, etc. have been utilized.

Mr. 'Andalib continued: The preparation of the draft took one and a half years in the Corps and on 27/12/68

[18 March 1990] the cabinet approved its generalities and currently it is being examined in the Majles defense commission.

He said: Hopefully this law will be on the agenda of the Majles as soon as possible and with the favors of the Majles representatives for the Corps, this law will more than ever be beneficial to the Corps.

The human resources deputy of the general staff of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps added: One of the most important problems we are facing in this law is the classification of duties, which we have matched with the pyramid of the Corps and the Organization. This is usually done in the organizations and offices by high level specialists, but we have dared and written it for the Corps. He then described the pillars of this law as improvement of the organization of the Corps' forces, covering the performance of personnel and its evaluation, ranking, disciplinary code, training and personnel services, and said that the most important pivot of the draft was the fulfillment of a 20 million strong army, which requires the cooperation and effective decision-making of the authorities.

The human resources deputy of the Corps' General Staff then said in regard to the titles and ranks of the Corps: We have 21 ranks in the Corps which have been announced to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from 23/12/68 [13 March 1990].

He described the titles and ranks as follows:

1. Private [Sarbaz]

2. Private, Second Class [Sarbaz Dovvom].

3. Private, First Class [Sarbaz Yekom].

4. Corporal [Razmyar (Sarjukheh)]

The word "pasdar" [guard] has also been added as suffix and prefix in the ranks.

5. Sergeant, Third Class [Pasdar Razmavar Sevvom (equivalent to Goruhban Sevvom)]

6. Sergeant, Second Class [Pasdar Razmavar Dovvom (equivalent to Goruhban Dovvom)]

7. Sergeant, First Class [Pasdar Razmavar Yekom (equivalent to Goruhban Yekom)]

8. WOJG [Warrant Officer Junior Grade] [Pasdar Razmdar Dovvom (equivalent to Ostovar Dovvom)]

9. CWO [Chief Warrant Officer] [Pasdar Razmdar Yekom (equivalent to Ostovar Yekom)]

Also the word "jenab" [excellency—title of honor—used as a polite way of refering to someone] is used similar to army officer ranks at the beginning of officer ranks with the suffix pasdar, as follows:

10. Excellency Third Lieutenant Guard [Jenab Setvan Sevvom Pasdar]

11. Excellency Second Lieutenant Guard [Jenab Setvan Dovvom Pasdar]

12. Excellency First Lieutenant Guard [Jenab Setvan Yekom Pasdar]

13. Excellency Captain Guard [Jenab Sarvan Pasdar]

14. Excellency Major Guard [Jenab Sargord Pasdar]

15. Excellency Lieutenant Colonel Guard [Jenab Sarhang 2 Pasdar]

16. Excellency Colonel Guard [Jenab Sarhang Pasdar]

Also the word "sardar" [commander—used as a title or polite way of referring to someone] is used at the beginning of ranks above colonel [sarhang]:

17. Commander Second Brigadier General Guard [Sardar Sartip Dovvom Pasdar] [This rank seems to be a new rank, unique to Iran, and does not have an equivalent in the U.S. ranking system.]

18. Commander Brigadier General Guard [Sardar Sartip Pasdar]

19. Commander Major General Guard [Sardar Sarlashgar Pasdar]

20. Commander Lieutenant General Guard [Sardar Sepahbod Pasdar]

21. Commander General Guard [Sardar Arteshbod Pasdar]

Then Mr. 'Andalib commented on the situation of ranks in the Basiji forces: We believe in a special place for the Basijis in the Corps because they have been the guardians of Islam and our country.

He added: We have set the ranks of the boys in the Corps and the Basij almost identical to each other and after a resolution on coordination, organization, and expansion of the dear Basiji forces, we have formed the Organization of the Basij Resistance Forces.

In continuation of the interview, the human resources deputy of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps said: The criteria for the ranks of Basiji forces is experience, training, realization of responsibilities, qualification of personnel, education, background, and the length of time spent on the front, the procedure for which is under consideration and its details will be announced after its approval.

Concerning the granting of ranks and salaries of the Corps' personnel, he said: With the implementation of this plan the salary parameters of the Corps will be raised and the salary of no one in the personnel will be reduced, even when they are granted a lower rank.

Mr. 'Andalib further added: At present two deficient salary parameters apply to the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, while in the new law we pay the salaries of the Pasdaran on the basis of army salaries. The occupational benefits and extra bonuses which until now were not given to the personnel of the Corps, will be rendered to them after this law goes into effect.

Regarding the insurance and retirement fund of the Corps, he said: We have had meetings with officials of the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics concerning the establishment of an insurance and retirement fund and will cover all of the Pasdaran personnel under the fund plan.

Then regarding the signs of the ranks, he said: A long time has been spent working on the design of rank signs and as soon as the ranks are approved, these signs will also be announced:

At the end of the interview Mr. 'Andalib said about the uniform of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps: We have three kinds of uniforms in the Corps: the work or combat uniform, the service uniform, and the formal uniform.

The work or combat uniform is a uniform which has been presented to the supreme commander of the armed forces and we will distribute this uniform to the whole personnel of the Corps, which will enter the overall system of the Corps in the near future.

*Commerce Minister: Poland Asks for Cash Trade

*90AS0129E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
12 May 90 p 3*

[Text] The minister of commerce and the delegation accompanying him, who had left for Warsaw to attend the fourth session of the Joint Iran-Poland Economic, Commercial, and Industrial Commission, returned to Tehran yesterday afternoon.

In a conversation with IRNA, he described the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries during the visit as positive and said: A number of changes have taken place in Poland's economic system and it was necessary to prepare a document taking into account the departure from the barter system and to have it signed by the commerce ministers of the two countries.

He added: During the visit, the three issues of commercial, financial, and industrial (relations) were discussed and in the sphere of industrial problems positive results were reached among other things on the plants for manufacturing industrial machinery, road construction, purchase and manufacturing of fishing boats by Iran, reconstruction and renovation of Iran's sugar and flour mills by Poland, solution of problems related to Iran's insecticide-spraying airplanes, and providing their spare parts as well as construction of foodstuff and fodder factories and mining equipment by Poland.

The minister of commerce also referred to the commercial field and to Iran's purchase of iron tools, chemicals, and plastics, various kinds of paper and spare parts for factories and added: The export of Iran's non-oil commodities to Poland was also examined.

He said, Poland is interested in purchasing natural gas and crude oil from Iran, and regarding the sale of oil to this country it is necessary to consider their request.

He added: In accordance with the demand of Poland, the sale of oil will be carried out in a system of cash purchase.

*IRI, Oman Announce Joint Oil Exploration

*90AS0129H Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
13 May 90 p 2*

[Text] Iran and Oman are cooperating for the exploration of oil deposits in the common waters of both countries, declared the petroleum minister of Oman in an exclusive interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday.

Oman's petroleum minister, Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari, who arrived in Tehran yesterday morning for a three day visit of our country, was welcomed by petroleum minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh. In a radio and television interview upon his arrival in Tehran, he said he was carrying a written message from the king of Oman, Sultan Qabus, for the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and that during his visit he will hold talks with the petroleum minister, Mr. Aghazadeh, about problems of the world market for oil, resolutions of the recent meeting of OPEC, and the evolution of cooperation between the two countries, among other fields, in the exploration of oil in the offshore waters between the two countries.

He described the basis for mutual cooperation between Iran and Oman as favorable and said about the cooperation of non-OPEC countries with OPEC members: Oman supports the latest decision of OPEC to stabilize the price of oil and cooperates with OPEC members. Oman's oil minister, whose country is not a member of OPEC, said: The non-OPEC countries are ready to cooperate with OPEC in order to help stabilize the oil price in world markets.

During the interview, he said a reduction of oil production by non-OPEC countries was possible and referring to the latest reduction in OPEC oil output he said the non-OPEC producers may effect a similar reduction of their output of oil after consultations with OPEC members and at their request.

*IRI, Pakistan Sign $400 Million Agreement

*90AS0129D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
23 May 90 p 10*

[Text] 23 Ordibehesht—13 May—The fifth session of the Joint Iran-Pakistan Economic Commission concluded its work in Islamabad with the signing of a memorandum of understanding, an agreement, and a program of cultural exchange.

According to a report by the Islamic Republic News Agency, in the fifth memorandum of understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, which was signed by the minister of economic affairs and finance, Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, and Pakistan's minister of state for finance, Ehsanul Haq Piracha, the volume of trade between the two countries was, as in the past, fixed at 400 million dollars with each country's share 200 million dollars. The important points of the fifth memorandum of understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan include agreement in principle to construct a gas pipeline and refinery in Pakistan, export of surplus electricity from the province of Sistan va Baluchestan to the border areas of Pakistan, the sale of machinery for fish powder factories, participation of Iran's private sector in Pakistan's industrial undertakings, purchase of rice from Pakistan at a reasonable price, increasing cooperation in the sphere of customs and communications, joint investments in production and industrial affairs.

In the signed agreement the two sides also agreed to tax exemptions on shipping.

In the program for cultural cooperation between the two countries for 69 and 70 [21 March 1990-20 March 1992], which was signed by the deputy minister of Islamic culture and guidance in parliamentary and artistic affairs, Mohammad Baqer Karimian, and his Pakistani counterpart, the two sides also emphasized the expansion of cultural, informational, educational, and research exchanges between the two countries.

In a conversation with IRNA, the deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, and the general president of the customs [office] of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morteza Mohammadkhan, enumerated the points of agreement in the fifth memorandum of understanding between Iran and Pakistan in the field of customs affairs.

He said: In this memorandum agreement in principle was reached on uniforming of customs forms, and both sides agreed to solve the customs problems of the border customhouses of Taftan and Mirjaveh through the uniforming of working hours of the customs staff of both sides and acquainting the travelers with the customs regulations of the other side.

It was also agreed upon to establish a joint border market with the objective of enabling the residents of the border area to use the products of both countries, facilitating the customs formalities for train passengers, and the opening of two customhouses in Pishin and Mand, in the border area between Iran and Pakistan.

The minister of economic affairs and finance met last Thursday and Friday with Pakistan's president, prime minister, agriculture minister, and minister of state for finance and held talks with them. In a conversation upon his arrival in Tehran, Dr. Nurbakhsh described the negotiations conducted in Islamabad with Pakistani officials as useful and pointed out that the agreements reached will lead to further expansion of relations between the two countries.

The Iranian chairman of the bilateral economic commission disclosed that the anticipated volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan during the next year will be $400 million, and he pointed out that in the meanwhile there is no limitation on increasing this volume of trade and both sides are insisting on increasing trade and economic cooperation.

According to the minister of economic affairs and finance, the most important agreements were reached in the commercial and industrial fields, oil and energy, as well as cultural exchanges. In regard to industrial cooperation, both side emphasized the exchange of technical information and it was agreed that Pakistan's minister of production visit Tehran for basic negotiations with the industrial ministers of Iran. Dr. Nurbakhsh referred to Pakistan's expression of interest in the construction of a pipeline for oil and natural gas and providing part of Pakistan's energy needs by Iran and indicated that both countries can use international resources for the implementation of this project. According to Dr. Nurbakhsh both sides have reached agreement on customs cooperation and the creation of facilities for travelers as well as the establishment of a joint border market. It has also been agreed that in the future an air connection from Quetta to Mashhad will be opened for the transportation of Pakistani pilgrims to Mashhad.

Furthermore, the Pakistani side has put forward proposals to Iran regarding the construction of a sugar refinery and a cement factory. Dr. Nurbakhsh also pointed out that according to signed agreements the Iran-Pakistan Textile Project will be reappraised and it has been agreed that the Foundation for the Oppressed take action regarding the continuation of investment and reactivating of this project. According to Dr. Nurbakhsh a number of individuals from the private sector were also members of the delegation accompanying him, who have conducted constructive negotiations with the Pakistani side.

*Article Points Out Baluchi Threat

90P40085A Brussels LE VIF/L'EXPRESS in French 8 Jun 90 p 97

[Article by SAFA HAERI]

[Text] The new Iranian power in Tehran makes pathetic calls for unity on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of Imam Khomeyni. However, in the confrontational province of Baluchestan, bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan, fierce disputes are presently taking place between government forces and the armed tribes.

Iranian authorities have always had strained relations with the Baluch—a Sunni minority of about two million people. The situation today is insurrectionary. According to like-minded witnesses, over a thousand Baluch have been killed in the last 12 months. Even the

Iranian press, rigorously controlled, reports about "violent combats" against these nationalists alternately labelled as "rebels", "counterrevolutionaries", "bandits", or "smugglers".

One of the representatives of the PFBL (Popular Front for Baluch Liberation), Arash Naru'i, questioned by LE VIF/L'EXPRESS, attests that four of the tribal chiefs have been arrested and put to death in the second half of April. In retaliation, the insurgents assaulted and took control of a radio station in Zahedan, principal city of the province and killed a gendarmerie officer.

Baluchis accuse the Iranian government openly of ordering the assassination of an important tribal chief, Haj Baluch Shah Bakhsh, four months ago. They specially rise up against an administrative project which, if implemented, would divide their region in two. The name of Baluchestan would then disappear from the maps to give birth to the provinces of Sistan and Makran. Had not Stalin, with all the success that we know him to have had, done the same to end the regional fever?

*Relations With EC Dependent on UK Ties

*90AS0190O London KEYHAN in Persian
14 Jun 90 pp 1, 9*

[Text] While the governments of the European Community have linked improved and expanded economic and commercial ties with the Islamic Republic to the establishment of relations between the Islamic Republic and the government of England, Hashemi-Rafsanjani is making every effort to find a way to resolve the crisis of relations with the government of England. His efforts, which have reached their highest level in the last two weeks, arise from the Islamic Republic's need for economic and technical cooperation with Western Europe to alleviate the severe economic constraints that are pushing Iran to the brink of social upheaval.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who, under the pressure of the nations' disfunctional economy, has given up on unbalanced ties with the United States of America, is now trying to remove the obstacles that Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree ordering the killing of Salman Rushdie, author of the book *The Satanic Verses* has placed in the way of improved ties with England and ultimately with Western Europe, but not only does he face serious domestic opposition to the cancellation of Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree, but remarks by Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the English prime minister, and Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and their refusal to condemn Salman Rushdie have added to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's problems, which reduce every day the time he has to untie the economic knots in Iranian society.

Saturday this week ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO broadcast a report on statements by Mrs. Thatcher and Douglas Hurd on their refusal to condemn the author of *The Satanic Verses*. Mrs. Thatcher, while expressing sympathy with Muslims who were hurt by the publication of *The Satanic Verses*, and emphasizing her respect for the religious feelings of Muslims, said that she is not willing to get involved in the issue of *The Satanic Verses*.

In a talk last Tuesday, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i made the Salman Rushdie issue more complex and officially announced that Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree cannot be voided and that the government of England must turn Salman Rushdie over to the Muslims of that country so they can punish him, or to put it more plainly, kill him.

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's comments came three days after the interview with Musavian, general manager of the Islamic Foreign Ministry in Tehran with a correspondent from the SUNDAY TIMES. In the interview with the SUNDAY TIMES, Musavian tried to discredit and deemphasize the seriousness of Ayatollah Khomeyni's order to kill Salman Rushdie. In a similar effort, three months ago Hashemi-Rafsanjani characterized Ayatollah Khomeyni's order to kill Salman Rushdie as an expert opinion, but this met with a sharp reaction from others.

A parliamentary council has been formed consisting of four deputies from the English Parliament from the Labor, Conservative, and Social Democratic parties to find new ways to deal with the crisis in relations between England and the government of the Islamic Republic. This council, which made it possible to renew political relations between the two sides in a 1988 trip to Tehran, has made arrangements to go to Tehran to talk with members of the Majles Foreign Relations Commission. The members of the council are Gabriel [as published] Townsend and Robert Hicks of the Conservative Party, Tom Clarke of the Labor Party, and Lord Tordoff of the Social Democrat Party. Preliminary talks for sending this parliamentary delegation to Tehran have been conducted by John Little, representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

More than anything else, the Church of England wants to improve ties with the Islamic Republic to create the possibility of freeing Terry Waite from the Hizballah kidnappers in Lebanon.

Western Europe's Common Stand

Political experts believe that the member nations of the European Community have told the Islamic Republic that it cannot expect to expand relations with the Western European nations before resolving its political differences with England.

The policy and common position of the member nations of the European Community were given to Musavian, the general manager of the Islamic foreign ministry, during a meeting in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, with political representatives of three member nations of the European Community. Confidence in the political solidarity of the Western European nations is what makes the prime minister of England resolute in refusing to grant concessions to the Islamic Republic.

It is clear from reports published in the newspapers of the Islamic Republic regime that despite several billion dollars in agreements on paper with some of the Western European nations, including Italy, none of these agreements have gone beyond the level of talk in their main provisions, and this has brought complaints from the Islamic regime.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's New Move

The immediate need for the West's financial, economic, and technological resources and the solidarity of the Western governments in their policies towards the Islamic Republic regime have forced Hashemi-Rafsanjani to devise new plans to alleviate the crisis.

Last week the special correspondent to Tehran from the SUNDAY TIMES reported that throughout the mourning rites for Khomeyni, Hashemi-Rafsanjani was in the president's office on Kakh Street studying the problem of establishing relations with England, leaving his office only rarely to take part in the ceremonies.

The SUNDAY TIMES reporter wrote that during these days Rafsanjani held numerous meetings with his advisors, who include few mullas.

The SUNDAY TIMES reporter believes that concerning the matter of the order to kill Salman Rushdie, Hashemi-Rafsanjani is gradually overcoming the objections of his hardline opponents such as Ahmad Khomeyni and Mohtashemi, and is bringing others closer to his position. For example, Ayatollah Emami Kashani, a member of the Council of Guardians and the Assembly of Experts, said last week at the Friday prayer that sometimes even the prophets changed their minds and that even Ayatollah Khomeyni changed his mind about continuing the war with Iraq. Emami Kashani said: This was like "drinking poison" for the Imam, but it was necessary to preserve the Islamic Republic.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself made a brief reference to this matter last week during the opening of the mourning ceremonies for Khomeyni. He said: In his calculations, the Imam miraculously decided to accept the cease fire.

Political observers believe that if Hashemi-Rafsanjani can make the regime's other leaders see the critical condition of the nation's economy and the possibility of social upheaval, he will be able to use a routine preacher's technique even to remove the obstacle of Ayatollah Khomeyni's order to kill Salman Rushdie.

*Paper Reports on Deplorable Life Condition

90AS0190C London KEYHAN in Persian
14 Jun 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] Although the Islamic Republic regime spent tens of millions of dollars from Iran's nearly empty treasury to glorify the rites for the death anniversary of Khomeyni, and for this purpose brought to Tehran at great cost thousands of foreign guests, including hundreds of news correspondents and newspaper writers from various countries, this effort utterly failed to conceal the bitter truths and disastrous state of Iranian society in every economic and social dimension.

Although the government's visible and secret agents made every effort to keep foreign correspondents away from the people and to prevent them from contacting the so-called "undesirable" elements, the net effect was detrimental to the Islamic Republic's propaganda aims.

The mildest articles and reports by the correspondents and the world press on the rites for the death anniversary of Khomeyni and the changes in the Islamic Republic's domestic and international situation brought to the attention of world public opinion evidence and examples of the Islamic Republic's bankruptcy and its repressive policies. In the course of this, the government's efforts to portray Iran's political and social life as stable and normal, and to show that the government of velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] manages the country successfully also went nowhere, and the reports by the foreign correspondents were more pessimistic than expected.

Claude Lorieux, special correspondent to the newspaper FIGARO of Paris, wrote in his report from Tehran: One year after the death of Ayatollah Khomeyni, several hundred thousand people gathered at the city of death, Behesht-e Zahra, but the commemorative ceremonies for their dead Imam were very shrewdly planned and guided. Officials of the Islamic Republic gathered to the slogan "unity" around the golden-domed tomb concealing the body of someone whose "facilitators" and "hard-liners" continue to grapple with one another over his legacy. The officials and their guests (including the Palestinian terrorist leader Ahmad Jibril and the leaders of the Lebanese Hizballah terrorists) along with a throng of believers swarmed in the first hours of the morning to the vast caravanserai flanked by its two 90-meter steel frame minarets.

The little people came by automobile and bus from remote parts of Azarbayjan or Khorasan, while the "important people" came by helicopter. Khomeyni city, located in the desert 16 kilometers from the capital, has two helicopter pads. The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY announced that on 4 June eight to nine million people gathered at Behesht-e Zahra (a crowd the size of the population of Tehran), but this remarkable figure was even more astonishing when we saw that the bus parking area at Behesht-e Zahra was half empty.

The FIGARO correspondent adds: Reminders of the disastrous eight-year war with Iraq, tens and tens of lame and crippled people, passed through the long lines.

It was a frightening parade of men and children with missing legs and arms, moving on crutches with difficulty. Among them was a being whose face and mouth were completely shredded and it was obvious that the restorative surgeons had operated on his face many times in a "whatever-may-come" manner. Within the tomb structure, a monstrous warehouse-like building reminiscent of the famous Bubourg [? as published] cultural center of Paris, the crowd was so packed together and the air was so heavy that women and soldiers fainted and were carried out on stretchers. Mothers laid infants out on blankets and fanned them. A group was using insecticide sprayers to spray the people with rosewater.

A television camera mounted not so far from the tomb, with its green roof, surrounded by a steel barrier, went into operation at a special signal, and suddenly the anti-American and anti-Israel slogans begin. All those present have learned their parts at the Tehran University Friday prayers. All these things are repeated with perfect coordination, but sometimes those chanting also smiled at the foreigners watching their demonstration.

Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i speaks to the crowd. He is sitting in a special place, with Ahmad the son of the late Imam, the ministers, and special guests such as Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, general secretary of the Hizballah of Lebanon (the ones holding all the Western hostages), Ahmad Jibril, chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (whose name is usually given in connection with the Lockerbie aircraft bombing), foreign religious dignitaries little known to the people of Iran, as well as Shaykh Sha'ban, leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite Society.

Continuing his report from Behesht-e Zahra, Claude Lorieux writes:

One year after the death of Khomeyni, Ayatollah Khamene'i based his speech on inevitable unity, and claimed:

The enemies of the revolution have made every effort to sow discord among us, and they do not want the government to succeed. Officials must avoid saying anything that might promote discord. The ears of the few liberals and of Mohtashemi, the leader of the hard-liners who are the great critics of the "indulgence" of closer ties with the West, must be ringing! Mohtashemi has not relented recently from his attacks on the Hashemi-Rafsanjani-Khamene'i policy of "facilitation", and presents himself as the only true defender of the ideas of the founder of the Islamic Republic.

When Khamene'i's talk was over, the mullas hastily left the tomb and passed by the tents where families were having picnics and the pools where men were splashing themselves to cool off. Further away, sprinklers were spraying water on dizzy and wandering people. The week of mourning was over. The construction of this city of death, a building truly appropriate for the Islamic revolution, could continue.

The Iranians' Dark and Gloomy Life

Calvin writes: In the year since the death of Khomeyni, prices have increased 60 percent. Residential rents are constantly increasing, and there is corruption. The Iranians suffered deprivation throughout the war with Iraq, but with the cessation of hostilities and the election of Rafsanjani as president of the republic, hopes were raised that failed to materialize. The people are frustrated by Hashemi-Rafsanjani's failure to follow through on his public statements and to keep his promises for reforms.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's problems resemble to an extent those of his northern neighbor, Mikhail Gorbachev. He is trying to reduce the grip of narrow thinking on the government, but these measures have brought with them a wave of dissatisfaction and economic instability. A great danger for Rafsanjani comes from the Iranian youth. Iran is one of the youngest nations in the world, with an average age of 16.5. Only one person in 100,000 can go to a university, and even with a university degree, work is either not to be found or only at very low wages. A government employee earns about 30 pounds per month and must work a second job to meet his expenses.

The precise implementation of Islamic laws in Iran means that the youth of Tehran have little to do in the evenings but go to movies (Last year the price of a movie ticket increased from 100 rials to 180 rials) or pass their time looking in store windows at luxury goods they cannot afford. He can telephone a girl he is attracted to, but they must arrange to walk behind each other on the streets. If they walk side by side or talk to one another, both will get into difficulties. One young man says: I don't even dare take a walk with my sister anymore, because there are many problems.

Elsewhere in the report, the special correspondent to the SUNDAY TIMES writes:

The life that is left for them in the country is dark and gloomy. Reza, 30 years old, lived with his brother for years. He drove a taxi as a second job, and he saved his money until he was able recently to marry. Today, however, he is bankrupt. He spent about 2,000 pounds to buy a ring and gold jewelry for his wife and for an elaborate wedding, both of which are necessary for an Iranian marriage. He spent 1,500 pounds as a deposit on an apartment, and his rent is 50 pounds per month, more than his salary. Working two jobs and adding the salary of his wife, who is a teacher, he is able to get through to the end of the month, although not completely, because he has no money to invite guests to his home, although others do not accept the invitations because they cannot reciprocate. Such incidents, which become harsher every day, are printed in the newspapers. The newspaper ABRAR writes concerning the housing problem: If a government employee saves all the money he gets for fifty years, without spending a cent, he might be able to buy a 100-meter apartment in the middle of Tehran. Concerning rents, they are two or three times the amount of the average salary. ABRAR adds: We would not be surprised to see a renter lose his mental and physical equilibrium.

Recent oppression has made life even more suffocating than in the past. In the month of May, the Ministry of the

Interior, obviously upset by the widespread indifference to Islamic dress among women, announced a "campaign against visual corruption." The women's biggest sin was to allow a lock of hair to extend from under their scarves.

Mary Calvin, correspondent to Tehran for the SUNDAY TIMES, writes concerning corruption and theft among elements of the Islamic regime:

Corruption has become chronic. Government workers supplement their tiny salaries by taking bribes to issue any sort of authorization or file. A Western merchant describes his experience in this respect as follows: He had been told that to conduct a certain transaction, he needed the support of an important mulla or influence. He had been told beforehand how much cash to bring. At the end of the meeting he told the mulla: I would like to give this sum of money to your foundation. The mulla hesitated a little, but at the same time he lifted the corner of the carpet he was sitting on and motioned for the merchant to put the money under it.

After the Islamic Republic severed its ties with England last year, guidelines were issued to the ministries under which any dealings with English companies or institutions were forbidden. However, they have paid absolutely no attention to these guidelines. Commercial transactions between the two countries are at about 800 million pounds per year.

As for the hard-liners, who cannot openly embrace Rafsanjani, they do damage wherever they can. Two weeks ago the members of the committee, Khomeyni's rapid response forces, brought a German merchant out of his automobile and yanked him by the necktie down onto the pavement (in the view of the fundamentalists, a necktie is a manifestation of Western corruption), and before letting him go they cut the tie in half with scissors.

This is the reality of the life that the Iranians must endure with disgust. When I was having problems with an extremely prejudiced security official, a worker in the hotel where I was staying sympathized with me and said: If such a thing happens again, don't forget that in Iran everyone accepts bribes.

*Rumors on Money Devaluation, Name Change Denied

90AS0190P London KEYHAN in Persian
14 Jun 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] As proposed by the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Republic has lowered the value of the rial.

In order to end widespread rumors spreading across the country last week to the effect that the Islamic Republic's monetary unit was going to change from the rial to the toman and would be renamed as the "nur," Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the Islamic Republic's minister of economic affairs and finance gave an international press conference in which he denied the rumors. Nurbakhsh called the change of the nation's monetary unit from the rial to the "nur" a joke, and he also vigorously denied that the nation's money was to be devalued.

Despite this, specialists in monetary affairs believe that the announcement of a new rate for foreign exchange called "competitive foreign exchange" actually amounts to a reduction in the value of the rial, and under the Five-Year Plan the devaluation of the rial is to continue. At the end of the Five-Year Plan the rial will have 90 percent of its value at the beginning of the current year.

Nurbakhsh rejected the reasoning of these experts. He said: The decision we made and also acted upon was to announce a parallel rate called the competitive rate which is to be used for importing raw materials and special goods. Just as we have announced, it is not at all our intention to devalue the nation's money, and we do not think there is any need for this policy now, or that this would help us solve economic problems.

With regard to the elimination of food subsidies, which has been tried recently in the case of meat, the minister of economic affairs and finance did not deny the idea in principle, but he said that the government would continue the program of "supporting the lower-income classes by paying part of the cost of basic goods consumed by the public, along with other assistance to those with lower income."

It is said in Tehran that the elimination of food subsidies, which was recently announced by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was also one of the things requested by the International Monetary Fund as a condition for granting a loan to the Islamic Republic. This request was submitted to him after a visit by a delegation from this fund. Even so, Mohsen Nurbakhsh also tried to deny this. He said: The visit by the International Monetary Fund delegation to Iran was to prepare a report on the nation's economic condition. It was a routine visit because Iran is a member of the fund, and such visits are nothing new. Then, with regard to the use of loans from the International Monetary Fund, he also denied previous statements by regime officials, but he announced that the Islamic Republic will take a loan from the World Bank. In this regard, Mohsen Nurbakhsh explained: According to the nation's Five-Year Plan, we are authorized to make use of foreign resources and to make use of these resources for specific projects. However, because of the nature of the fund's resources and the characteristics of our projects, the use of these resources is not an appropriate framework for us.

Mohsen Nurbakhsh added: The facilities available from the World Bank are more fitting and appropriate for Iran's situation, and the officials of the World Bank have also expressed an interest in this regard.

The regime's minister of economic affairs and finance announced that the results of the studies on both sides will be announced in the near future. At the same time it is being said that the necessary agreements have been reached in this regard, that the related contracts have also been signed, and that the Islamic Republic has kept its position a secret to prevent attacks by the regime's hard-liners on the one hand and by the opponents of the Islamic Republic on the other and will reveal it at a more suitable time.

*Underground Rail Reported Near Completion

90AS0190G London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jun 90 p 4

[Text] Construction on the underground Shush-Behesht-e Zahra Rail is being completed and it is expected to go into operation in the next few months. The length of the line has been announced as about 17 kilometers. It will be the first part of a metro network that is to connect various parts of Tehran, the nation's capital of 12 million.

Official experts have announced that with the beginning of operations of the Shush-Behesht-e Zahra Metro Line, more than 2,000 passengers will be transported in each round-trip journey by one train. Recently the manager of this metro project announced that operations to prepare the line were completed and that the line was ready for the track to be laid.

Engineer Bahram Ahmadi, manager of the Shush-Behesht-e Zahra Metro Project, gave a press conference early last week. He said: Late in the month of Ordibehesht 1366 [21 April-21 May 1987], workshop operations began on the One to Eight section at Javan Mard-e Qassab Street and the Two to Eight section at the Tehran-Qom road opposite the main gate to Behesht-e Zahra. The official discussed details on the Shush-Behesht-e Zahra underground rail. He said: Along a 1,050 meter stretch an underground tunnel was dug in the form of an open trench to go under Shahid Rowhani, Aramgah, and Masir-e Rah Ahan streets, and this area of 17.5 kilometers is part of one of the Tehran metro lines, which is to begin at Mirdamad and end at Kahrizak. This line goes parallel to the railroad from the end of Khayyam Street to the Shush Street intersection, and after leaving the tunnel it separates from the rail line and continues to Behesht-e Zahra.

Elsewhere in his remarks, this official said: Along the route a total of 57 concrete bridges have been built, 46 of which, with two-meter openings and lengths of 16 to 40 meters, are pedestrian crossings in agricultural areas. The others, with 11-meter openings and ramps for light and heavy vehicles, have been built at intersections.

Engineer Bahram Ahmadi added: At the Ba'st Freeway intersection, a 240-meter bridge of concrete and steel has been built. Its construction began late in the month of Esfand last year [20 February-20 March 1990], and after 45 days, continuous work was completed in the month of Ordibehesht this year [21 April-21 May]. Likewise at this intersection the railroad and the metro cross at ground level and vehicles cross by bridge. Likewise at the Abrisham Street intersection another underpass is under construction. With a 55-meter width and a length of 300 meters, an underpass ramp for vehicle traffic is being planned. The third heavy bridge along this route, with a length of 650 meters, is being completed at the freeway to the north of Behesht-e Zahra. At this intersection also the train will cross at ground level and vehicles will cross on a bridge. Likewise, a pedestrian underpass is planned at this same section.

Eleven Stations along the Shush-Behesht-e Zahra Metro

This official noted that along the Shush-Behesht-e Zahra Rail 11 stations are being built, of which three are now ready for use. Likewise, along the route we have installed natural gas lines and many water pipes to the various trains of up to 800 millimeters on seven pipelines.

Continuing his remarks to correspondents, Engineer Ahmadi added: At the end of Line One across from the main gate to Behesht-e Zahra, a terminal is planned with an area of 200 hectares including a repair shop, a steam room, coach parking, washing facilities, a laboratory, a command room and other future needs.

The manager of the Shush-Behesht-e Zahra underground rail project told correspondents that 116 residential houses, 13 foundations and factories, and 12 stores along the route have been purchased from their owners and destroyed, and two clinics and one school have also been destroyed along the route with replacements built. Likewise the total area of the lands purchased along the route under discussion is 30 hectares, and the metro will have a 34-meter right-of-way on both sides along the length of the route. Along the route a 5.5-kilometer branch line is being studied and implemented, which will go into Behesht-e Zahra by an underpass tunnel, go around the southern side of Behesht-e Zahra and pass the shrine to connect with the end of Line One.

Engineer 'Ameri, executive supervisor of the Rey and Behesht-e Zahra stations, told correspondents that these two stations will be built underground, and on both sides of the line platforms are to be built to transfer passengers in every direction. Administration and ticket sales offices will be adjacent to the platforms. The length of the station, including the platforms, is 15.20 meters. The Shush-Khayyam station will be built underground and will include two entry levels and a platform.

*Specialists Successfully Repair F-4 Fighter

90AS0198A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 23 Jun 90 p 11

[Text] **29 Khordad, 19 June—For the first time in the country, the nose of an F-4 fighter plane was successfully manufactured by the specialists of the Iranian airline industries company.**

According to a report by IRNA, in addition, the essential repairs on and rebuilding of the 50th engine of a F-14 airplane was successfully concluded by the specialists of this company.

The engine of this airplane was tested and prepared for installation on the plane in ceremonics in the presence of

Foruzandeh, the acting chief of staff, the director general of the Islamic Republic airlines, and a group of military commanders.

The director general of the Iranian airline industries said in a speech during these ceremonies: After the victory of the Islamic revolution, despite the economic embargo and the restrictions due to the imposed war, with the efforts of the technical personnel of this company, fundamental repairs on and the rebuilding of eight airplane and helicopter engines have been performed.

He said: In addition, six combat transport, fuel carrier, and passenger planes, which had formerly been repaired by foreign experts, were repaired with the highest international standards by the experts of this company and put into operation.

He added: In order to build the nose of the F-4, 919 manufactured parts and 168 rebuilt parts were used.

He described the success in building the above-mentioned planes as one of the greatest technical achievements of the Islamic Republic in the area of repairing and building airplanes and said: Before the revolution, only four kinds of airplanes were repaired in this unit, but now 19 kinds of airplanes are repaired, which in the technical dimension of airplane repairs is unique in the Middle East.

Referring to the existence of 3,500 specialized personnel in this company, he said: Since 60 percent of the personnel have more than 10 years of experience, their presence is considered a valuable asset for the country.

In conclusion, he said: The expert personnel of this company are now working on the project to build half of an F-5 airplane, the positive results of which will be announced.

*Law Enforcement Bill Approved, Detailed

90AS0198B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 27 Jun 90 p 25

[Text] **Session of Sunday 27 Khordad—17 June—In the open session of the Majles presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, Paragraph 24 of Article Four of the bill on combining the law enforcement agencies was ratified.**

In this session, the Majles continued the discussions on the details of the bill on combining the law enforcement agencies of the Islamic Republic.

First, the suggestions in regard to the paragraphs of Article Four were discussed. Several representatives proposed the omission of or changes in various paragraphs.

Speeches were made in support of and opposition to these suggestions. The minister of interior and spokesmen of the council and internal affairs committee gave explanations.

Then Paragraphs 1-10 of Article Four were put to a vote separately and ratified as follows.

Article Four. The mission and duties of the law enforcement guards of the Islamic Republic of Iran consist of:

1. Establishment of order and security and public and individual tranquility;

2. Fighting decisively and continuously any kind of terrorism or rebellion or agents and actions that disrupt the national security and are against the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Information;

Note: The type of and procedures concerning cooperation will be determined by the National Security Council.

3. Ensuring security involving the holding of lawful gatherings, assemblies, marches, and activities; preventing any illegal gatherings, marches, and assemblies; and fighting disturbances, disorder, and illegal activities.

4. Engaging in those actions necessary in the area of obtaining reports and information within the confines of the conferred duties and cooperation with other national information agencies and units and within the framework of their duties.

Note One: The collection of reports and information concerning political and security issues and their intelligence follow-up is conferred on the Ministry of Information. If the law enforcement agency obtains such news and information while carrying out its duties, it shall be responsible for collecting such information and rapidly placing it at the disposal of the Ministry of Information. The above-mentioned ministry shall be responsible for providing the law enforcement agency with needed news and information related to the duties of that agency in a timely manner.

Note Two: Follow-up information on certain social offenses related to national security or which involves part of a conspiracy or secret activities the objective of which is to overthrow the regime shall be carried out with the consolidated guidance of the Ministry of Information and the cooperation of the law enforcement agency.

Note Three: The law enforcement agency shall be responsible for placing the needed law enforcement personnel under the operational control of the Ministry of Information for the purpose of intelligence objectives (obtaining and collecting) if requested. The means of cooperation and procedures for providing the personnel in question shall be in accordance with the bylaws to be approved by the National Security Council.

5. Protection of places, establishments, equipment, and facilities classified as civilian in cases in which on the basis of the approval of the National Security Council such protection has been conferred on the Guard Corps.

6. Protection of domestic and foreign officials and personalities throughout the country, except in military barracks and establishments and except in cases, in

accordance with the approval of the Supreme National Security Council, in which such protection is conferred on the Guard Corps.

7. Collection of illegal weapons, ammunition, and equipment and supervision over the storage and legal use of firearms, with the coordination of the Ministry of Information and in accordance with the proposals ratified by the National Security Council.

8. Carrying out the duties which in accordance with the law are conferred on the law enforcement agency as the executor of the judicial branch, such as:

A. Fighting narcotics

B. Fighting smuggling

C. Fighting prohibited acts and corruption

D. Preventing crimes

E. Uncovering crimes

F. Inspection and investigation

G. Protection of evidence of a crime

H. Arrest of suspects and offenders and preventing their escape and hiding

I. Carrying out and notification of judicial rulings

9. Carrying out affairs related to determining identity and scientific discovery of crimes.

10. Protection and control of the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, carrying out the ratified border treaties and protocols, protecting the rights of the government and border citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the borders and the exclusive economic limits of the coastal waters.

Note: In carrying out the ratified border treaties and protocols, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall be responsible for cooperation.

11. Carrying out laws and regulations concerning passports (except for diplomatic and service passports) with the cooperation of the Ministry of Information (in regard to the entry and residence of foreign nationals and the issuance of passports).

12. Carrying out traffic, driving, and weighing laws and regulations and protecting national roads.

13. Carrying out laws and regulations of general military service.

14. Supervising over public places and carrying out other affairs related to these places in accordance with the approved regulations.

15. Cooperating with other armed forces of the Islamic Republic when necessary and in order.

Note: The law enforcement guards with the cooperation of the Guard Corps may mobilize resistance forces when necessary.

16. Cooperating with the administration office of the international police (Interpol [International Criminal Police Organization]).

17. Cooperating with ministries and government agencies, establishments and companies and those affiliated with the government, banks and city halls, upholding the related laws and regulations.

18. Cooperating with related agencies in regards to creating and expanding the necessary cultural grounds for the purpose of discovering crimes and violations and facilitating conferred duties.

19. Aiding in emergency and public assistance affairs when necessary, in coordination with related authorities.

20. Organizing, equipping and training law enforcement units and preparing them for conferred duties.

21. Securing and protecting the facilities, barracks, and related stations.

22. Securing air defense, related facilities, and sensitive areas within the range of the anti-aircraft weapons of the agency in coordination with and under the operational control of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

23. Providing the medical needs of the personnel and administration of related hospitals and treatment centers.

24. Preparing plans for logistic needs and taking steps to procure those items and services conferred on the law enforcement agency by the general command of the armed forces.

Also, taking steps to purchase land and build needed facilities in accordance with ratified plans.

Session on Tuesday, 29 Khordad—19 June—In the open session of the Majles presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, two other paragraphs of Article Four and Articles Five and Six of the bill on combining the "law enforcement agencies" were ratified.

In this session, the Majles continued its examination of the bill on combining the law enforcement agencies, and suggestions of representatives on various articles of this bill were discussed. Speeches were made in support of and opposition to these suggestions, and the minister of interior and the related spokesmen of the committee provided explanations.

Then Paragraphs 25 and 26 of Article Four and Articles Five and Six were put to a vote separately and ratified as follows.

25. Continuous and constant efforts to preserve and protect the agency in matters of security.

26. Continuous and constant efforts towards the complete rule of the Islamic culture and precepts in the law enforcement agency.

Note: The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics shall continue to be responsible for the legal duties it has had vis-a-vis the law enforcement agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition, foreign purchases of defense items shall take place through the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

Article Five. In implementing Paragraphs 25 and 26 of Article Four of this law, independent centralized agencies shall be formed from the combining of similar existing organizations in the law enforcement agencies, such as the "organization for protection of information" and the "ideological, political organization."

Note One: These agencies shall have the responsibility for the duties and missions of agencies of the same names in accordance with the law of the military of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note Two: The head of the ideological, political agency of the law enforcement agency shall be appointed by the general commander of the armed forces; and the director of the organization for the protection of information of the agency shall be selected upon the suggestion of the commander of the force, the approval of the general commander of the armed forces and the order of the commander of the force.

Article Six. The Ministry of Interior shall be responsible for preparing within six months of the ratification of this law a bill concerning the employment regulations, salaries, benefits, and promotions of the personnel and for presenting it to the Majles for ratification. Prior to said ratification, the current laws and regulations shall remain in effect.

Session on Wednesday, 30 Khordad—20 June—In the open session of the Majles presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the details of the bill on "combining the law enforcement agencies" was ratified.

In this session, first several representatives proposed attaching some articles to the bill on combining the law enforcement agencies.

Speeches in support of and opposition to these proposals were made, and the representative of the government and the spokesman of the related committee provided explanations.

Then the attached articles, as Articles Seven, Eight, Nine, and 10, were put to a vote separately and ratified as follows.

Article Seven. Requirement for membership:

A. Belief in and adherence to the foundations and rules of Islam and the regime of the Islamic Republic and observing Islamic morality.

B. Not being member of or affiliated with political parties, groups, or organizations.

C. Not having effectively cooperated with the tyrant's regime or helped stabilize it.

D. Not having a bad record, but having a good reputation.

Article Eight. The proposal for the organization of this force shall be prepared by the Ministry of Interior and approved by the general commander of the armed forces.

Article Nine. The budget of the above-mentioned force shall be written and after the approval of the Ministry of Interior shall be sent to the Cabinet through the Plan and Budget Organization.

From the date of the ratification of this law, all contradictory laws and regulations shall be rescinded.

Then a number of representatives offered several suggestions for the title of the law enforcement bill as follows: The law enforcement committee of the Islamic Republic, the Islamic revolutionary police and the law enforcement of the Islamic Republic.

Hoseyn Shahrudi and Majid Ansari spoke in opposition to and support of these proposals. The spokesman of the committee and the minister of interior provided explanations.

Then the title, the law enforcement agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was put to a vote and ratified.

*Appointment to Ministry of Agriculture Announced

90AS0129J Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 May 90 p 3

[Text] On orders of the minister of agriculture, Dr. 'Isa Kalantari, Mohammad 'Ali Vatani was appointed adviser to the minister in banking and corporate affairs and Sayyed Mahmud Sayyedinezhad was appointed vice president of the General Directorate of Agriculture of Hamadan province.

*Appointments To Universities Announced

90AS0129I Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 May 90 p 2

[Text] On orders of the minister of culture and higher education, Dr. Mo'in, Dr. 'Ali Shari'atmadari was appointed to membership of the Supreme Council of the International Islamic University.

Furthermore, at the nomination of the Council of Guardians and on orders of the minister of culture and higher education, Messrs. Hojjaj ol-Eslam 'Amid Zanjani and Dr. Mohaqeq Damad were appointed members of the Supreme Council of the above mentioned university.

According to IRNA, at the nomination of the minister of culture and higher education and with the approval of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, Dr.

Mohammad Soleymani was appointed member of the board of trustees of Shahed University.

*Ministry of Education Appointments Announced

90AS0129F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
13 May 90 p 3

[Text] On orders of the minister of education, Engineer Mohammad Sa'adat was appointed general director of budget of that ministry and began his work.

*Appointment of Several Police Chiefs Announced

09AS0129G Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
13 May 90 p 2

[Text] KEYHAN Social Group:

As nominated by the respected police presidency of Tehran and approved by the discipline department of police the presidents of seven police stations were appointed and began their work.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Police, the names of the new chiefs are as follows:

1. Colonel Hoseyn-'Ali Kiyani, Police Station 5.
2. Lieutenant-Colonel Abolqasem Mohseni, Police Station 6.
3. Major Sayyed Hoseyn Aqamiri, Police Station 7.
4. Lieutenant-Colonel Farhad Moslempur, Police Station 8.
5. Lieutenant-Colonel Mahmud Shams, Police Station 22.
6. Lieutenant-Colonel Belal Qorbani, Police Station 23.
7. Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Khosrovani, Police Station 25.

*New Appointments Announced

90AS0129B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
23 May 90 p 4

[Text] On orders from Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, Sirus Dizji was appointed adviser to the minister.

On orders from Ghaffur Paknehad, the administrative and financial deputy of the Ministry of Roads and Transport, 'Ali Tayyeh was appointed general director of the office of organization and methods in that ministry and began his work.

Morteza Haji, the deputy minister for tourism and pilgrimage of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, ordered the following appointments:

- Mehdi Salimi, as executive adviser.
- Hamid Amini, as general director of the Center for Research and Iranian Studies and World Tourism.
- 'Abdolnaser Mirchi, as supervising general director of tourism services.
- Fereydun Nategh-Elahi, as general director of the office of planning and technical affairs.
- Davud Bahrami, as general director of the Educational Center for Tourisim Services.

On orders from Tirani, adviser to the minister of commerce and president of the board of directors and executive director of the Grains Organization of the Country, Mansur Asadzadeh-Sabet was appointed head of the general directorate for machine-baked bread.

On orders from the minister of education, Engineer Mohammad Sa'adat was appointed general director of budget in that ministry and began his work.

On orders from Engineer Sa'idi-Kiya, Engineer 'Abbas Ariyanipur was appointed president of the board of directors and executive director of the Road Safety Equipment Corporation in the Ministry of Roads and Transport and began his work.

On orders from the chief of the Judiciary's political deputy, Reza Sa'id Mohammadi was appointed director general of international affairs in the political department of the Judiciary and began his work.

On orders from the cultural and artistic affairs deputy of the Foundation of the Self-Sacrificing Devotees [Foundation of the Oppressed], Seyyed Nureddin Hejazi was appointed director general of the Cinematographic Department of the Foundation.

*More New Appointments Announced

90AS0129C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
30 May 90 p 4

[Text]

- On orders from Engineer Shekarriz, the deputy for mines and explorations of the Ministry of Mines and Metals, Engineer Ahad Iravani was appointed director general of the Office for Coordination and Provincial Affairs in that ministry.
- On orders from Dr. Vahid Dastjerdi, the head of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic, Mohammad Porham was appointed secretary general of the Society.
- On separate orders from Hoseyn Kamali, the minister of labor and social affairs, Siavash Sami'i was appointed, in addition to his present position, as acting deputy for employment; Habibollah 'Ajayebi as deputy for social affairs; Ardeshir Davar as administrative and financial deputy; and Mohammad 'Ali Sharifi as economic adviser, and began their work.
- On separate orders from Engineer Mohammad Narraqi, the executive director of the Iran Communications Corporation, Seyyed Mehdi Nabizadeh was appointed director of control and Akbar Hazratzadeh was appointed member of the board of directors of the Fiber Optic Production Corporation.

- On orders from Hoseyn Kamali, the minister of labor and social affairs, Seyyed Hoseyn Nazemzadeh was appointed director general of the Office of Coordination and Prosecution of Administrative Violations and began his work.

*New Appointments Announced

90AS0198C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 11 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] In a letter to Ayatollah Khamene'i, the grand leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the minister of interior, referred to the necessity for expansive coordination in the national police department in connection with the combining of the law enforcement agencies and proposed that Colonel Seyyed Amanollah Mortazavi be promoted to lieutenant brigadier general and appointed as the national chief of police.

Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and general commander of the armed forces, also wrote in response to the letter of the minister of interior:

In the name of the Almighty

The promotion and appointment of the above-mentioned is agreed to. It is necessary for me to express thanks for the sincere efforts of Brigadier General Niknezhad during his period of service to the Police Department and the country. It is hoped that Lieutenant Brigadier General Seyyed Amanollah Mortazavi and all the honorable personnel of the Police Department will carry out their important duties seriously and with hard work, as is worthy of the police and the Police Department of the Islamic revolution, and will always be subject to divine success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Dated] 30 June 1990

In an order by Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri, the minister of interior, Brigadier General Niknezhad, the former chief of police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was appointed as advisor in law enforcement affairs to the minister of interior.

With official appointment papers from Dr. Mostafa Mo'in, the minister of culture and higher education, Dr. 'Ata'ollah Kuhian and Dr. Khosrow Naderan were presented as the presidents of al-Zahra University and Ahvaz Martyr Chamran University.

The minister of culture and higher education expressed praise and gratitude for the services and activities of Dr. 'Abdollah Zandiyyeh and Dr. 'Abdolrasul Kazempur, the former presidents of these two universities.

In an official appointment paper from Dr. 'Ali Qanbari, deputy minister of reconstruction jihad and head of the tribal affairs agency, Habibollah Jahangiri was appointed head of the pastures unit of the Iranian organization for tribal affairs.

In official appointment papers from Mohammad Hashemi, the president of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Va'ezi was appointed director general of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Previously he had worked with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic as an advisor.

On the basis of official appointment papers from Maleki-Tabar, the president of the board of directors and general manager of the Post Office, Mas'ud Parvaresh was appointed general manager of the Post Office of Esfahan Province.

Pakistan

Islamic Law Bill 'Serious' Challenge for Bhutto

BK2507033890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0206 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Bu Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, July 25 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto seems determined to prevent the strict application of Islamic law in Pakistan, but is manoeuvering carefully to avoid a direct confrontation with the country's fundamentalists. An opposition-sponsored bill calling for across-the-board implementation of Islamic law, or sharia, poses a serious new challenge for Ms. Bhutto, already embattled over continuing violence in Sindh Province. In the Islamic state of Pakistan, "no one would dare commit the sin of opposing shariah," local political commentators stress.

Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will consequently propose at least 20 amendments to the bill, in an attempt to significantly mitigate its impact without rejecting the idea of sharia, a source close to the premier said.

Under the proposed legislation, the courts and religious judges will have the power to examine any law and decide whether it is compatibile with sharia principles. If it is not in line with their beliefs, the law could then be disregarded. The opposition says the bill is part of the "process of decolonisation." But the goverment argues it would take away the legislative powers of the elected parliament, leading to "legislative chaos." The bill was passed in May by the opposition-dominated Senate and the National Assembly is due to debate the bill when it starts its session in the first week of August.

The bill threatens to fuel tensions between Pakistan's Sunni Moslems and its minority Shi'ite community, which has rejected the measure, as well as reviving the debate over whether a woman can lead an Islamic country. Opposition to the sharia bill has also come from women, lawyers and many moderate and left-wing politicians.

Already, representatives of the various parties have met to search for a common approach to the spiny subject of sharia. But not all senior opposition figures appear eager to reach a common stand, with one saying privately: "Sharia will be our new rallying cry in the anti-Bhutto crusade."

The PPP commands a majority in the National Assembly, but if the bill is amended it will have to be presented to a joint session of the two houses of parliament, which would give the opposition a numerical edge.

Ms. Bhutto, 37, vowed last week to preserve Pakistan's current parliamentary system at all costs.

"My government cannot be a party to anything which is discriminatory and transfers powers from the parliament," she said. But the premier of Pakistan, which was founded in 1947 for the Moslems of the Indian subcontinent, was careful to include a religious dimension in her arguments.

"We believe in Islam, that sovereignty belongs to Allah (God) and the people are agents of Allah," Ms. Bhutto said. "The parliament is composed of agents of God and the sovereignty of the parliament must be maintained at all costs."

In another appearance last week in the opposition stronghold of Lahore, Ms. Bhutto insisted her government wanted to enact an Islamic system bestowed by God. She cautioned, however, that cutting off a hand or a foot for theft—the punishment prescribed by sharia and practiced in hardline Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia—"may not look proper."

Two religious leaders promptly lodged an official complaint against Ms. Bhutto for the remark, which they said contradicted the principles of Islam.

Libyan Envoy Meets Bhutto, Speaks on Kashmir

BK2407162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] The special envoy of Libya, Dr. (Mohammad Ahmad Sharif), called on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today. The Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, has sent his special envoy to India to emphasize the importance of finding a peaceful and durable solution of the Kashmir problem. The special envoy conveyed to the prime minister the views of the Indian Government on the present state of India-Pakistan relations. The prime minister assured that Pakistan had consistently stressed the need for a peaceful solution of the problem and would welcome talks. She informed the special envoy about recent talks between India and Pakistan and hoped that the next round of talks would bear some fruits.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto spoke about excellent Pakistani-Libyan relations and about steps being taken to strengthen cooperation in economic and other fields. She asked the special envoy to convey her warmest regards to the Libyan leader and urged him to continue taking keen interest in the affairs of South Asia.

The special envoy, who is also the secretary general of the World Islamic Call Society, later told newsmen that he had handed over a message from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Ms. Benazir Bhutto. He said the Libyan leader has urged both India and Pakistan to avoid a conflict on Kashmir. The special envoy said he was happy to find that leaders of both the countries wanted to solve the outstanding problems through dialogue and peaceful means.

Official Condemns Indian Action in Azad Area

BK2307155990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] Mumtaz Hussain, the Azad Jammu Kashmir prime minister, has condemned the shooting by Indian occupation forces in (Lifa) valley and Chakothi in the Azad area. In a statement in Muzaffarabad today, he said through such unprovoked acts, the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir cannot be suppressed.

Turkish Armed Forces Chief Meets Navy Chief

BK2307114490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Text] The visiting chief of General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces General Nacip Torumtay met the chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik in Islamabad this morning. They exchanged views on matters of common interest.

Meets Premier Bhutto

BK2407155790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] General Nacip Torumtay, chief of the General Staff of Turkey, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. During the meeting, views were exchanged on ways to further consolidate the brotherly ties between Pakistan and Turkey in all fields, including defense. The prime minister expressed satisfaction with the excellent relations between the two countries.

Agreement Signed With Japan on Debt Relief Grant

OW2507081290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 25 KYODO—Japan and Pakistan on Wednesday signed an agreement here for Japan to provide a debt relief grant of 165.64 million yen to Pakistan. The grant will be used to purchase commodities like electrical machines, transport, and medical equipment or any other commodity mutually agreed upon by the two sides.

The agreement was signed by Japanese Ambassador Shunji Kobayashi and Secretary of Economic Affairs K.M. Chima.

The debt relief relates to debt repayments that were due between October 1, 1989 and March 31, 1990.

Afghan Resistance Member Assassinated in Peshawar

BK1807150390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 18 Jul 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 18 (AFP)—A teacher and member of the Afghan resistance group Jamiyat-e-Eslami was found hanged here, police said Wednesday [18 July], in the second assassination of a Jamiyat member in a week.

Fazal Rab, 37, was found dead late Tuesday [17 July] hanging by an electric cord in his home in university town, an Afghan area of Peshawar. Police called the death a "criminal act" and his wife said he did not have any enemies. The resistance faction to which Mr. Rab belonged is one of seven Sunni moslem groups fighting the pro-Soviet Government in Kabul and based in this city near the Afghan border.

The assassination was the second of a Jamiyat member in less than a week after Jamiyat commander Sayed Jaafer was killed in an ambush in a refugee camp last Wednesday [11 July].

Security has deteriorated in recent months in Peshawar, which hosts dozens of Western humanitarian organizations along with the Sunni parties. The Jamiyat appears to be a special target of assassins, and at least five of its cadres have been killed in 1990.

Although the guerrillas regularly accuse Kabul's agents of responsibility for the attacks, several leaders have said that some murders may be motivated by conflicts within the resistance.

Islamabad Reports Commissioning of Nuclear Reactor

BK2207075990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] A teaching research reactor has been added to the facilities of the center for nuclear studies of the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Sciences and Technology. The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting a Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission report in Karachi, says the reactor has been constructed in collaboration with China to provide a facility for teaching and training for nuclear engineering experiments.

'Biggest Ever' Defense Production Project Launched

BK1907162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] Pakistan's biggest ever defense production project has been launched at the Heavy Rebuild Factories at Taxila. The foundation stone of the project involving finances to the tune of 2,500 crore rupees was laid by the chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, today. This gigantic defense production unit includes tanks and armored personnel carriers manufacturing facility. Mass production of the main battle tanks to be known as T-90 Khalid will start by 1993. The tank is being designed and manufactured by Pakistani engineers and its components will be totally indigenous.

Badr-1 Satellite Subsystems Working Satisfactorily

BK1907113490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] All subsystems of Pakistan's space satellite Badr-1 are working satisfactorily. This was stated by the chairman of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission at a news conference in Karachi this afternoon. He said presently they are just observing and monitoring the working of the satellite. Experiments, as planned, would be carried out within the next 10 to 12 days.

Customs Officials Seize 9,500 Kg of Hashish

BK1807011090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1741 GMT 17 Jul 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 17 (AFP)—Pakistani customs Tuesday [17 July] seized 9,500 kilograms of hashish and arrested two people in connection with the haul, officials said. The drugs were being smuggled in an oil tanker from the northwestern tribal area, bordering Afghanistan, and were seized at Kotal, some 50 kilometers south of here, they said. The driver and his assistant were arrested on smuggling charges, they said, adding that it was brought in from Afghanistan.